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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Thirteenth meeting

FAO, Rome, 18-22 February 2008

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

1. Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to provide both 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 twelve meetings. The first took place at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in Paris, from 4 to 8 September 1995. The following eight meetings were held in Montreal, from 2 to 6 September 1996, 1 to 5 September 1997, 21 to 25 June 1999, 31 January to 4 February 2000, 12 to 16 March and 12 to 16 November 2001, 10 to 14 March and 10 to 14 November 2003. The tenth meeting was held in Bangkok from 7 to 11 February 2005. The eleventh meeting took place in Montreal from 28 November to 2 December 2005. The twelfth meeting took place at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 2 to 6 July 2007. The reports of these meetings have been circulated as documents UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5, UNEP/CBD/COP/3/3, UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2, UNEP/CBD/COP/5/2, UNEP/CBD/COP/5/3, UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3, UNEP/CBD/COP/6/4, UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3 UNEP/CBD/COP/7/4, UNEP/CBD/COP/8/2, UNEP/CBD/COP/8/3 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/2 respectively.

3. The thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA will take place at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 18 to 22 February 2008. Registration of participants will commence at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 17 February 2008.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m., on 18 February 2008.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1.

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ITEM 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

5. Pursuant to rule 26, paragraph 3, of its rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 2006, elected Mr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel (Islamic Republic of Iran) as the Chair of SBSTTA for a term of office commencing at the end of the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA and expiring at the end of the fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/31, para. 27).

6. In accordance with paragraph 9 of its consolidated *modus operandi*, as contained in annex III to decision VIII/10 of the Conference of the Parties, and in order to achieve staggered terms of office within the Bureau, SBSTTA normally elects, at each of its meetings, five new Bureau members for a two-meeting term to replace the outgoing members. In accordance with the elections held at the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body, the Bureau of the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA will comprise the following members, in addition to its Chair: Mr. Rawson Piniel Yonazi (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Habib Gademi (Chad), Mr. Linus Spencer Thomas (Grenada), Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico), Ms. Annemarie Watt (Australia), Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), Mr. Angheluta Vadineanu (Romania), Ms. Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan) and Mr. Joel Miles (Palau).

7. In addition, at the current meeting, the Subsidiary Body will elect new members to serve on the Bureau for a two-meeting term, commencing at the end of the thirteenth meeting, to replace the members from the United Republic of Tanzania, Grenada, Australia, Romania and Palau.

8. The provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA was approved at its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/2, annex II). The Subsidiary Body will be invited to consider the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1) for adoption.

9. Regarding the organization of work, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, proposed the following allocation of tasks between the plenary, the Committee of the Whole and the two working groups (see annex I below):

(a) The following items would be considered in plenary at the beginning of the meeting:

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work;

(b) The Committee of the Whole would consider the following items:

- 3.1. In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;
- 3.2. In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity;
- 4.5. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: *modus operandi* for addressing new and emerging issues;

(c) Working Group I would consider the following items:

- 4.1. Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems for marine areas in need of protection;
- 4.2. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of

national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention;

- (d) Working Group II would consider the following substantive items:
 - 4.3. Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards;
 - 4.4. Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions.
- (e) The following items would be taken up in plenary towards the end of the meeting:
 - 5. Draft provisional agendas, and dates and venues for the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
 - 6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

ITEM 3. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

Item 3.1 Agricultural biodiversity

10. *Background.* The programme of work on agricultural biodiversity was adopted in 2000 in decision V/5. Subsequently three international initiatives have been developed within the programme of work, namely:

- (a) The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (decision VI/5, annex II);
- (b) The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity (decision VIII/23 B); and
- (c) The International Initiative for Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (decision VIII/23 A).

11. Other issues considered within the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity include:

- (a) The impacts of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity (decision VI/5, para. 17); and
- (b) The implication of the application of genetic use restriction technologies on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and impacts of the application of these technologies on small-holder farmers, indigenous and local communities and Farmers' Rights (decision V/5, paras. 19-29; decision VI/5, paras. 18-25; and decision VIII/23 C).

12. In the annex to decision VII/31, the Conference of the Parties decided to review in depth the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity at its ninth meeting.

13. In paragraph 3 of decision VII/12, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body to explore the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity to agricultural biodiversity, in particular domesticated species, breeds and varieties, and make appropriate recommendations as well as to consider the range of use options and management practices covered by the term "agricultural biodiversity" (para. 5).

14. In decision VIII/23 D, paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in consultation with other relevant international organizations, to prepare the full review of the programme of work, taking into consideration, as the Subsidiary Body was requested to do in paragraph 21 of

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decision VIII/9, the linkages between biodiversity and relevant socio-economic issues and analysis, including economic drivers of biodiversity change, valuation of biodiversity and its components, and the ecosystem services provided, as well as biodiversity's role in poverty alleviation and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

15. *Documentation.* Accordingly, the Subsidiary Body will have before it, document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2 prepared by the Executive Secretary in partnership with FAO and other relevant international organizations on the review of implementation of the programme of work and its international initiatives. The document also contains the result of a study on the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity to agricultural biodiversity.

16. *Action.* The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider the review of implementation of the programme of work and the related initiatives and studies (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2). More specifically, the Subsidiary Body may wish to identify the opportunities and obstacles to implementation, and submit its conclusions on ways and means to further implement the programme of work and the related initiatives to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 3.2 Forest biodiversity

17. *Background.* A programme of work on forest biodiversity focussing on research was adopted in 1998 in decision IV/7. In 2002, the Conference of the Parties adopted an expanded programme of work in its decision VI/22 including direct activities to conserve forest biodiversity, use its components sustainably and share the benefits from the use of forest genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. In paragraph 12 of decision VIII/19 the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to carry out an in-depth review of the expanded programme of work following the review process described in the annex to the same decision and also taking into account annex III to decision VIII/15 on the framework for monitoring implementation of the achievement of the 2010 target and integration of targets into the programme of work. In Part B of decision VIII/19, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collect and collate existing information in order to allow SBSTTA to consider and assess the potential environmental, cultural, and socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.

18. *Documentation* The Executive Secretary prepared document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3 drawing on the report of the ad hoc technical expert group on the review of implementation of the work programme on forest biodiversity contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/1. The note by the Executive Secretary also contains information on potential impacts of genetically modified trees.

19. *Action.* The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider the review of the implementation of the programme of work and submit its conclusions to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The review is expected to provide direction and additional drive for achieving the targets on forest biodiversity contained in decision VIII/15, taking into consideration the opportunities and obstacles to implementation identified so far.

ITEM 4. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010 TARGET

Item 4.1 Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection

20. *Background.* In paragraph 7 of decision VIII/21, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), and other relevant international organizations, to further analyse and explore

options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats and report the findings to future meetings of SBSTTA. In paragraph 46 of decision VIII/24 the Conference of the Parties decided to convene a scientific expert workshop on ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems for marine areas in need of protection and requested the Executive Secretary to provide the result of the workshop for consideration at a meeting of SBSTTA prior to its ninth meeting..

21. *Documentation.* The Subsidiary Body will have before a document prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/4) summarizing the options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats from a joint study conducted in collaboration with UNDOALOS, the international seabed authority and other relevant organisations. The document also contains elements from the report of the expert workshop held in S. Miguel, Azores, Portugal in October 2007 on ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems for marine areas in need of protection.

22. *Action.* The Subsidiary Body may wish to review the options proposed for preventing and mitigating the negative impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and the ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems for marine areas in need of protection, and submit its conclusions to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 4.2 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention

23. *Background.* In recommendation XI/9, para. 3, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, to provide a synthesis of progress in relation to decision VII/4 (the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems), paragraphs 29 and 30, of the Conference of the Parties , to be considered by the Subsidiary Body at a meeting prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In decision VIII/20, para. 5 (a), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to review the technical requirements under the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and compare them with the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention in order to identify inconsistencies and propose ways and means to address them to SBSTTA. In decision VIII/20, para. 5 (b), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a draft national reporting framework on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. In activity 1.1.10(a) of the programme of work (decision VII/4) SBSTTA is requested to review existing information on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions, including the relevant guidelines and technical papers on this topic, and prepare advice for the Conference of the Parties.

24. *Documentation* The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5) prepared by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel. The note contains (i) a synthesis of progress in relation to decision VII/4, (ii) a list of inconsistencies between the technical requirements under the CBD programme of work on inland water ecosystems and the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, (iii) the proposal developed by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on a national reporting framework for inland biological diversity, and (iv) on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions.

25. *Action* The Subsidiary Body may wish to review the content of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5 and draw some conclusions to be submitted to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that would facilitate implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and promote synergy in the implementation of the joint activities between the CBD and the Ramsar Convention at the national and international level.

Item 4.3 *Invasive alien species - report on consultations regarding international standards*

26. *Background* In paragraph 14 of decision VIII/27, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to consult with relevant international bodies and instruments, taking into account the observations of the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Framework in Relation to Invasive Alien Species (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/4), regarding whether and how to address the lack of international standards covering invasive alien species, in particular animals, that are not pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention, and to report on the results of these consultations for consideration by SBSTTA and by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

27. *Documentation* The Subsidiary Body will have before it document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/6, prepared by the Executive Secretary, containing the outcomes of the above stated consultations.

28. *Action*. The Subsidiary Body may wish to review the results of the consultations and submit its conclusions to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 4.4 *Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions*

29. *Background*. At its twelfth meeting, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to develop proposals for mutually supportive activities as requested in decision VIII/30 paragraph 9, for consideration at its thirteenth meeting. In developing the proposals, the Executive Secretary was requested to take into account the views discussed at its twelfth meeting, bearing in mind that these views were not endorsed by Parties during that session because the report of the Joint Liaison Group meeting was not available and, therefore, was not discussed. The Subsidiary Body also invited Parties to submit their views on the draft options for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/17.

30. *Documentation*. For the consideration of this item, the Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/7) containing proposals integrating the views from Parties for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations,

31. *Action*. The Subsidiary Body may wish to review the proposals developed by the Executive Secretary and make recommendation to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 4.5 *New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: modus operandi for addressing new and emerging issues*

32. *Background* At its twelfth meeting, SBSTTA recognized the need to further clarify the procedure for the identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and the appropriate ways and means to respond to them. The Subsidiary Body suggested a procedure contained in the annex to its recommendation XII/8 and requested the Executive Secretary to seek and, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, synthesize the views of the Parties in a document to be submitted to the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA.

33. *Documentation*. The Subsidiary Body will have before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/8) prepared in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, containing suggested elements of the procedure for the identification and consideration of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that incorporates the views received from Parties

34. *Action* The Subsidiary Body may wish to review the document prepared by the Executive Secretary and recommend a procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their

inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

ITEM 5. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDAS, AND DATES AND VENUES FOR THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

35. For the consideration of this item, the Subsidiary Body will have before it a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/9) prepared by the Executive Secretary. The note contains items recommended by previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties not yet considered by SBSTTA and/or for consideration by SBSTTA prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. However, it should be noted that the provisional agendas for the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of SBSTTA will be developed only after the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

36. Regarding the venues of the meetings, 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 fourteenth meeting of SBSTTA will take place at the seat of the Secretariat, in Montreal, Canada. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization offered to host the fifteenth meeting of SBSTTA.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

37. Under this item, SBSTTA will consider and adopt its report. 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.

38. The thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is expected to be closed at 6 p.m. on Friday, 22 February 2008.

Annex I

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

	<i>Plenary or Committee of the Whole</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
Monday, 18 February 2008 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>1. Opening of the meeting;</p> <p>2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work;</p> <p>4.5 New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: <i>modus operandi</i> for addressing new and emerging issues</p>		
Monday, 18 February 2008 3 p.m.–6 p.m.	3.1 In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity		
Monday, 18 February 2008 6 p.m.	Launching of the poster session		
Tuesday, 19 February 2008 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3.2 In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity		
Tuesday, 19 February 2008 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.		<p>4.1 Marine and coastal biodiversity: Options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection</p>	<p>4.3 Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards</p>

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	<i>Plenary or Committee of the Whole</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
<i>Wednesday, 20 February 2008</i> <i>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</i>		4.2 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention	4.4 Climate change: Options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions
<i>Wednesday, 20 February 2008</i> <i>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</i>	3.1 In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity <i>(continued)</i> 3.2 In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity <i>(continued)</i> 4.5 New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: <i>modus operandi</i> for addressing new and emerging issues <i>(continued)</i>		
<i>Thursday, 21 February 2008</i> <i>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</i>		4.1 Marine and coastal biodiversity: Options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems of marine areas in need of protection <i>(continued)</i> 4.2 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention <i>(continued)</i>	4.3 Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards <i>(continued)</i> 4.4 Climate change: Options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions <i>(continued)</i>

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	<i>Plenary or Committee of the Whole</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
<i>Thursday, 21 February 2008</i> <i>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</i>	Pending issues		
<i>Friday, 22 February 2008</i> <i>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</i>	5. Draft provisional agendas, and dates and venues for the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:		
<i>Friday, 22 February 2008</i> <i>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</i>	6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting		

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Annex II

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

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Working title</i>	Agenda items
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1	Provisional agenda	2
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda	2
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2	In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity	3.1
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3	In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity	3.2
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/4	Marine and coastal biodiversity: Options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographic classification system of marine areas in need of protection	4.1
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5	Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention	4.2
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/6	Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards	4.3
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/7	Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions	4.4
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/8	New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: modus operandi for addressing new and emerging issues	4.5
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/9	Draft provisional agendas for the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	5
