



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1/Add.2
28 January 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Thirteenth meeting

FAO, Rome, 18–22 February 2008

Items 3.1 and 3.2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Improving the scientific, technical and technological debate during the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

Note by the Chair

1. According to paragraph 4 of 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 strategic ways and means for improving the scientific, technical and technological debate during SBSTTA meetings and suggests, *inter alia*, raising 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 (decision VIII/10, annex III, appendix B, paragraph 2 (a)). Accordingly, the Executive Secretary:

(a) In consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, has invited Professor Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Executive Director of Fundacio Natura Regional (Ecuador y Colombia), Member of the Board of Directors of the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) and former Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), to deliver a keynote presentation on how to reconcile forestry, agriculture and environment in the context of the 2010 biodiversity target;

(b) Organized a number of side events on biodiversity and climate change in the margins of various meetings to discuss informally ways to integrate climate change issues in the work of the Convention and implementation of its programmes of work. In addition, members of the Secretariat participated in meetings held to prepare for the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA, including, in particular, the regional meeting held at the Isle of Vilm, Germany (see report at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-13/other/sbstta-13-oth-01-en.pdf>) and the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity 2007 (see the Chairman's report at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/external/external-meetings/trondheim-05-38-chairman-report-en.pdf>);

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(c) Prepared a number of information documents that complement the working documents with more details on each of the topics on the agenda of the meeting;

(d) Is organizing in collaboration with the Consortium of Scientific Partners a training workshop on 17 February 2008 to provide participants in the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA with background information that would allow them to participate more fully in the debates on agricultural and forest biodiversity;

(e) Is organizing a poster session on mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture and forestry sectors, and prepared a book of posters abstracts for distribution at the meeting. The book, entitled *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Issues into Forestry and Agriculture*, is also accessible on the website at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-34.pdf>;

(f) Is facilitating and organizing side-events during the meeting. The list of side-events can be found at <http://www.cbd.int/sbstta13/side-events/>.

3. Based on the provisions in the consolidated *modus operandi* of SBSTTA and drawing on the experience from the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA, the SBSTTA Bureau, at its meeting held in Geneva on 26 January 2008 with the financial support of the Government of Austria, recommended that the representatives of Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities organize themselves along the following lines to promote improved scientific, technical and technological discussions during SBSTTA meetings:

(a) For efficient use of time and making more time for scientific, technical and technological discussion, there will be no individual statements from Parties, regional and subregional groups, intergovernmental organizations, representatives of indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations in the opening of the meeting and, at any other time, to thank or congratulate the Chair(s), host country, host organization or Secretariat. 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) Brief presentations will be made to introduce the two items for in-depth review (see para. (c) below), as well as item 4.1 on marine and coastal biodiversity (by Professor Ricardo Serrao Santos the Chair of the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, held in the Azores, Portugal, from 2 to 4 October 2007) and item 4.2 on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (by a representative of the Ramsar Convention);

(c) To facilitate scientific, technical and technological discussions of items for in-depth review, the Bureau proposed an approach that is outlined in the annex to this note. The approach includes: (i) an introductory presentation by an expert; and (ii) consideration of key messages and development of recommendations to be conveyed to the Conference of the Parties. During the discussions, participants will be invited to focus their interventions on the key scientific, technical and technological issues under discussion;

(d) Where divergent views are put forward during the discussions of recommendations and if a consensus cannot be readily reached, the meeting will not attempt to negotiate an agreed consensus but instead present these divergent views in the form of options or alternatives for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Where interventions address issues that are not of scientific, technical and technological nature or fall outside the mandate of SBSTTA, they will be considered for possible reference to the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

PROPOSED PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

Item 3.1 – In-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Documentation

1. The main working document under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2) summarizes the main findings of the review of implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and suggests recommendations on:

- (a) Status and trends of agricultural biodiversity;
- (b) Implementation of each element of the programme of work, and of the international initiatives;
- (c) Linkages between agricultural biodiversity and climate change, including the issue of biofuels; and
- (d) The application of sustainable use principles and guidelines to agricultural biodiversity.

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.

2. A number of information documents (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/1, 2, 3, 4 and 17) have been prepared to complement the working document and provide more details on the implementation of the programme of work by Parties and international organizations.

Introductory remarks/presentations:

3. In accordance with the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA, the Bureau has agreed that one introductory presentation would be made by an internationally renowned expert to introduce the review of implementation of the programme of work. In addition to providing keynote remarks, the expert would also, if requested, assist the Chair in answering technical questions from the floor.

4. In response to a recommendation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 3 to 7 September 2007 (para. 26 of the report of that Conference), the Chair of that Conference will present to SBSTTA the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

Organization of the session devoted to the review of implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity on Monday, 18 February 2008, from 3 p.m to 6 p.m

5. The in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity highlights the need to strengthen intersectoral cooperation, synergy and coordination, particularly between agricultural and environmental interests at the national level including strengthening the use of the ecosystem approach. The keynote presentation would address opportunities and challenges related to this issue.

6. The session will be organized as follows:

3 – 3.20 p.m. Introductory presentation:

Title: “Bringing together the agriculture and environment agendas” by an expert from FAO. The questions to be addressed by the speaker will include:

- How does agricultural biodiversity (and biodiversity in general) contribute to food production and security?
- What are the current and future challenges facing the agriculture sector (e.g. growing food demand, food security, climate change, and biofuels), and options to address these challenges?
- What are the impacts of agricultural practices on agricultural biodiversity and biodiversity in general at the genetic, species and ecosystem level?

3.20 – 3.25 p.m.: The Chair of the Interlaken Conference will present The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

3.25 – 3.45 p.m.: The Chair will invite questions from the floor to the expert for clarification of the presentation.

3.45 – 6 p.m.: The Chair will invite delegations to make statements that will include

- (a) Important observations made on:
 - (i) The status and trends of agrobiodiversity and its value;
 - (ii) Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work, including opportunities and obstacles to the process;
 - (iii) The main impacts on agrobiodiversity and biodiversity outside agricultural lands of measures taken in implementing the programme of work.

The messages can be developed taking into consideration, *inter alia*, the executive summary in the working document prepared by the Executive Secretary under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2) and the introductory presentation. These messages will not be negotiated to reach a consensus but will represent the main points identified during the discussions. They could also constitute the rationale to the SBSTTA recommendations under the item (see next subparagraph) and will be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties for noting. Examples of such points can be found in paragraph 3 of recommendation XII/7, on possible impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and human well-being;

(b) Recommendations to be discussed and forwarded to the Conference of the Parties taking into account the suggested recommendations in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2).

7. After the session, the Chair will compile the main points and the recommendations put forward by the Subsidiary Body in a Chair's text to be circulated as a conference room paper. The Committee of the Whole will be invited to consider the Chair's text and develop a formal draft recommendation for consideration and adoption.

Item 3.2 – In-depth review of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Documentation

8. The note by the Executive Secretary under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3) summarizes the main findings of the review process based on:

- (a) Information compiled from the third national reports, additional information submitted by Parties and other stakeholders and partners;
- (b) Information from international organizations, peer-reviewed literature and independent reports carried out by international non-governmental organizations and scientific bodies; and

(c) Input from meetings, in particular the four meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Review of the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity.

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. A list of references is also provided at the end of the document.

10. A number of information documents (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) have been prepared to complement the note by the Executive Secretary and provide more details on the implementation of the programme of work by Parties and international organizations, as well as on genetically modified trees; cross-sectoral approaches for the conservation of forest biodiversity; the unauthorized harvesting of fauna (bushmeat); and climate change.

Introductory remarks/presentations

11. In accordance with the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA, the Bureau agreed that one introductory presentation would be made by an internationally renowned expert to introduce the review of implementation of the programme of work. In addition to providing keynote remarks, the expert would also, if requested, assist the Chair in answering technical questions from the floor.

Organization of the session devoted to the review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity on Tuesday, 19 February 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

12. The in-depth review on implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity identified deforestation as one of the main causes of forest biodiversity loss. The presentation would provide SBSTTA delegates with relevant information on the underlying causes of this complex phenomenon, with a focus on tropical forests, where the largest part of annual deforestation occurs, and present a number of possible policy responses to reduce deforestation. Reference to the impact of climate change and bioenergy would also be made.

13. The session will be organized as follows:

10 – 10.10 a.m.: The Chair will give 10 minutes to a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for a brief global perspective on the programme of work on forest biodiversity. The FAO representative will speak on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

10.10 – 10.30 a.m.: Introductory presentation:

Title: “Potential policy responses to the underlying causes of deforestation” by Ms Frances Seymour, Director General, Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The questions to be addressed by the speaker will include:

- Can a pattern for “policy recipes” be discerned from existing success stories?
- What are the market and governance conditions under which deforestation can be reduced or reversed?
- What are the potential impacts on forest biodiversity of new opportunities to address deforestation, such as ‘REDD’ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation)?

10.30 – 11.00 a.m.: The Chair will invite questions from the floor to the expert for clarification of the presentation.

11.00 a.m. – 1 p.m.: The Chair will invite delegations to make statements that will include

(a) Important observations made on:

- (i) The status and trends of forest biodiversity and its value;

- (ii) Progress made in the implementation of the programme of work, including opportunities and obstacles to the process, and
- (iii) The main impacts on forest biodiversity and biodiversity outside forests of measures taken in implementing the programme of work.

The messages can be developed taking into consideration, *inter alia*, the executive summary and the bold text in the section on status and trends of forest biodiversity in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3), and the introductory presentation. These messages will not be negotiated to reach a consensus but will represent the main points identified during the discussions. They could also constitute the rationale to the SBSTTA recommendations (see next subparagraph) and will be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties for noting. Examples of such points can be found in paragraph 3 of recommendation XII/7, on possible impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and human well-being;

(b) Recommendations to be discussed and forwarded to the Conference of the Parties taking into account the suggested recommendations in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3).

14. After the session, the Chair will compile the main points and the recommendations put forward by the Subsidiary Body in a Chair's text to be circulated as a conference room paper. The Committee of the Whole will be invited to consider the Chair's text and develop a formal draft recommendation for consideration and adoption.
