



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Thirteenth meeting
FAO, Rome, 18–22 February 2008
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDAS FOR THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The agendas of the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) comprise three groups of items:

- (a) Organizational matters;
- (b) Substantive issues; and
- (c) Final matters.

2. “Organizational matters” (i.e., opening of the meeting and organizational matters) and “final matters” (i.e., preparations for the (two) following meeting(s) of SBSTTA, adoption of the report; and closure of the meeting) are standing items on SBSTTA agendas. A progress report on the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention may be added as needed.

3. “Substantive issues,” usually grouped in a flexible manner under: (i) items for in-depth review and (ii) other scientific and technical issues, are placed on the agenda in response to decisions of the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to Article 25 of the Convention.

4. Without prejudging the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, the present note has been prepared to list the substantive items identified in previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties for possible consideration by SBSTTA prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in 2010.

Items for in-depth review

5. Items that SBSTTA may wish to consider in depth at its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings should be selected from among the items scheduled for in-depth review at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which are listed in decision VII/31 and the annex to decision VIII/14. They are:

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- (a) Protected areas;
- (b) Inland waters;
- (c) Mountain biodiversity;
- (d) Marine and coastal biodiversity;
- (e) Sustainable use;
- (f) Climate change.

6. In preparing its advice to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, SBSTTA may wish to consider three of the six items for in-depth review at each of its meetings prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In decision VIII/14, the Conference of the Parties recommended that inland waters and mountain biodiversity be considered by SBSTTA at its fourteenth meeting and that marine and coastal biodiversity be considered by SBSTTA at its fifteenth meeting.

Other scientific and technical issues

7. In paragraph 8 of decision VI/9, on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Conference of the Parties decided “to review, at its eighth and tenth meetings, the progress made in reaching the global targets, and provide additional guidance in light of those reviews, including, as necessary, refinement of the targets”. The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider developing its advice on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation at its fourteenth or fifteenth meeting.

8. In its recommendation 2/4, the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention recommended that, if possible, a draft of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) be made available for review at the fourteenth meeting of SBSTTA. If the Conference of the Parties adopts this recommendation at its ninth meeting, the Subsidiary Body may be requested to add a specific item relating to the review of the draft GBO-3 on the agenda of its 14th meeting. The Global Biodiversity Outlook will contain an assessment of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan, including progress made in implementing the programmes of work and achieving the 2010 biodiversity target and other targets.

9. Taking into account paragraph 14 of decision VIII/10, in which the Conference of the Parties underlines the need to reduce the number of agenda items for consideration by SBSTTA at each meeting in order to improve the effectiveness of its proceedings, the Subsidiary Body may wish to consider the items for in-depth review, including the review of progress made in achieving the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the 2010 biodiversity target, in the context of GBO-3. In doing so, the Subsidiary Body will keep the number of items on its agenda to the minimum, be able to consider all the substantive issues of its agenda in the Committee of the Whole, avoid the establishment of sessional working groups, and save on the cost of interpretation while offering the possibility for single-person delegations to participate in the discussions of all the agenda items (see paragraph 7 of the report of the SBSTTA Bureau (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/Bureau/1/2)).
