



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fifteenth meeting

Montreal, 7-11 November 2011

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Improving the scientific, technical and technological debate during the fifteenth 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 Kalemani Jo Mulongoy, Principal Officer with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to deliver a keynote presentation on mobilizing the scientific community for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity;

(b) 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;

(c) Organized a poster session on the contribution of ecosystem restoration to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a healthy planet for all people;

(d) Is facilitating and organizing side-events during the meeting. The list of side-events can be found on the meeting web page; and

(e) Published CBD Technical Series No. 48 on "Pets, Aquarium, and Terrarium Species: Best Practices for Addressing Risks to Biodiversity", 52 on "Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in

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Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes: Background to the Satoyama Initiative for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being”, 53 on “Biodiversity Indicators and the 2010 Biodiversity Target: Outputs, experiences and lessons learned from the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership” and 58 on “Developing Ecosystem Indicators” to support the consideration of the agenda items 4.1 on invasive alien species, 4.3 on, sustainable use and 3.1 on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and indicators.

3. Furthermore, the Secretariat and the Bureau were represented in the European Union regional meeting held at the Isle of Vilm, Germany, to prepare for the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

4. Based on the provisions in the consolidated *modus operandi* of SBSTTA, the mandates received from the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and drawing on the experience from previous meeting of SBSTTA, the SBSTTA Bureau held a number of teleconferences and one face-to-face meeting, funded by the Government of Norway, to review the draft pre-session documents prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and discuss and provide guidance on the organization of work at the fifteenth meeting of SBSTTA. The Bureau agreed that:

(a) For efficient use of time and allowing 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 during the opening of the meeting and, at any other time, to thank or congratulate the Chair(s), the host country or the 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) Under item 1 “Opening of the meeting,” the Chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration will present its 2011 Special Award to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in recognition of the commitment shown by the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at their tenth meeting, to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020, *inter alia*, through reducing pressures on biodiversity and restoring ecosystems, by adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular targets 14 and 15. In addition, through a video-conference, the German Minister of the Environment will introduce the Bonn Challenge, a core commitment launched at a ministerial conference in Bonn last September to restore, by 2020, 150 million hectares of lost forests and degraded lands worldwide estimated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be worth US\$ 85 billion per year to national and global economies;

(c) Regarding the election of officers, Members of the Bureau will interact with their regions to be able to propose new members from their region during the first plenary session;

(d) The keynote presentation will be delivered after the election of officers, and the adoption of the agenda and organization of work;

(e) Brief presentations will be made by the Secretariat to introduce each item on the agenda;

(f) For agenda item 3.1 on the “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020: Updated technical rationale, suggested milestones and indicators”, the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will be invited to provide a brief summary of the AHTEG report. With regards to matters related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SBSTTA will consider scientific and technical issues concerning the plan and associated targets. In this perspective, SBSTTA is best suited to discuss issues related to the technical rationales of the targets and indicators while milestones would be best considered by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI);

(g) As part of the introduction of agenda item 5, a representative of IPBES will be invited to brief SBSTTA on the conclusions of the First session of the Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), held in Nairobi from 3 to 7 October 2011;

(h) The poster session for the fifteenth meeting of SBSTTA is on: “Contribution of ecosystem restoration to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a healthy planet for all people”. The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau invited Dr. Eric Chivian, Nobel Peace Prize winner, of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, to introduce the poster session with a presentation on restoration and human health at the end of the afternoon session on Monday, 7 November;

(i) For agenda items for which the Conference of the Parties requested a report only i.e.: (i) inland waters biodiversity: report on assessment of ways and means to address relevant inland waters biodiversity needs in coastal ecosystems; (ii) sustainable use of biodiversity: report on how to improve sustainable use of biodiversity in a landscape perspective; and (iii) Arctic biodiversity, only limited suggested recommendations have been proposed. In line with the mandate from the Conference of the Parties, delegates are encouraged not to engage in significant discussions and debate on these reports submitted by the Executive Secretary for the information of SBSTTA;

(j) Where divergent views are put forward during the discussions of suggested recommendations prepared by the Executive Secretary 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 with their rationales for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

(k) Where interventions address issues that are not of scientific, technical and technological nature or fall outside the mandate of SBSTTA, the Chair may invite the meeting to refer them to the Conference of the Parties.
