



# Mobilizing the Scientific Community for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB)

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Living in harmony  
with nature

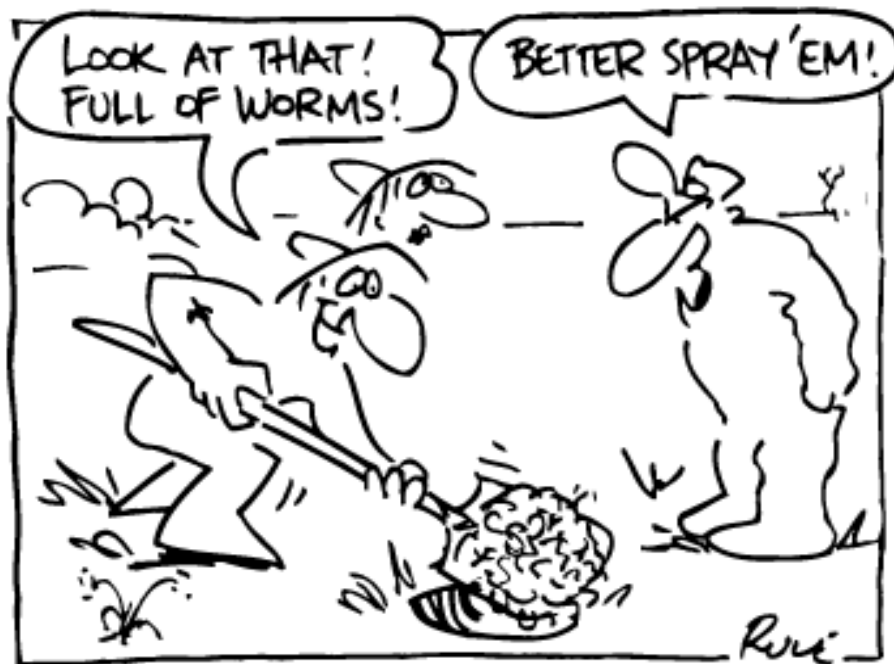


Convention on  
Biological Diversity

# Scientific information is needed for sound decisions

## Scientific information may be

- Available and used
- Ignored
- Difficult to understand
- Lacking



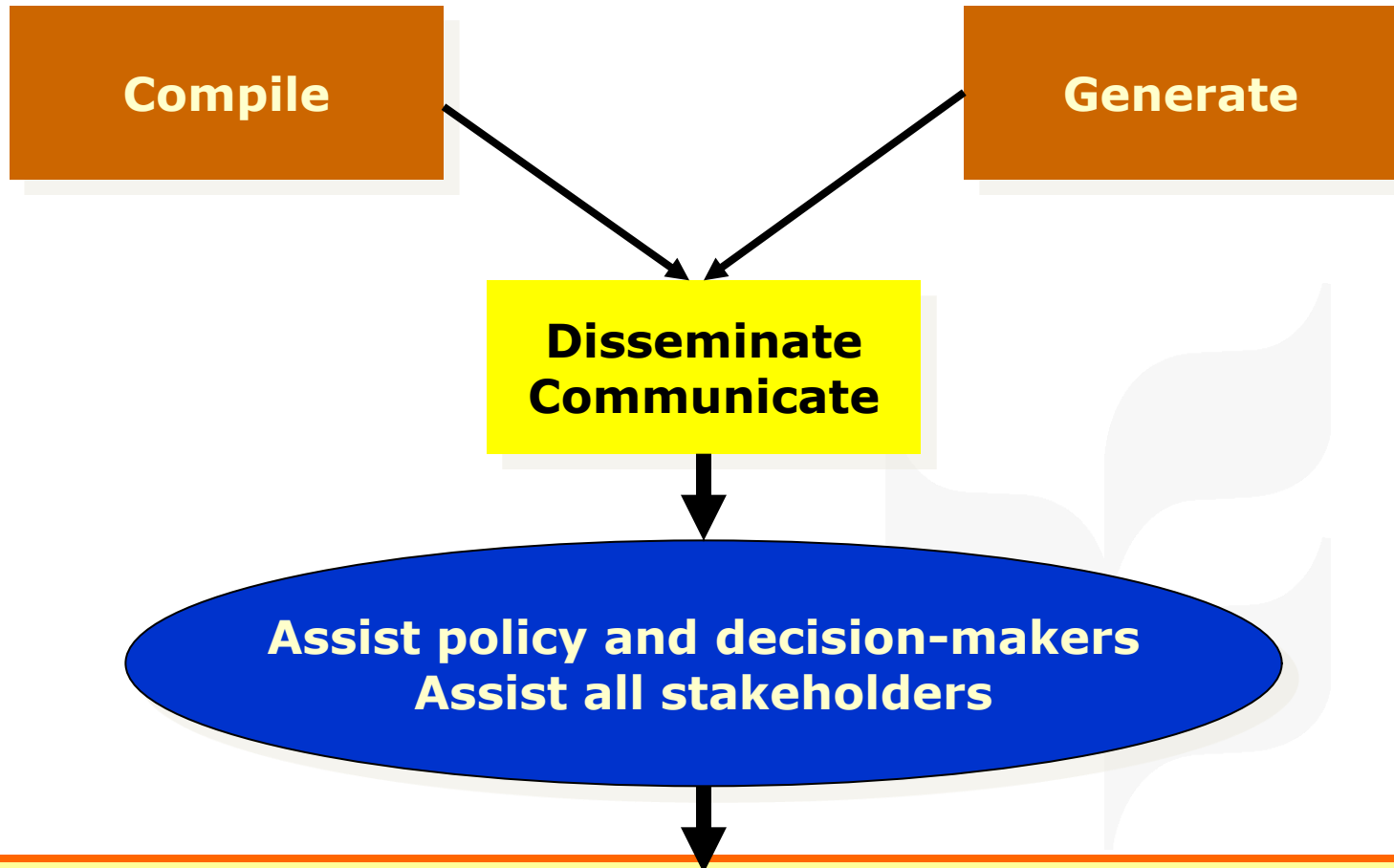


The scientific community **has to be mobilized** for UNDB and implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020



- **What purpose?**
- **Ways and means?**
- **Way forward**

# Purpose of **mobilizing the scientific community**



- Implementation of the objectives of the CBD
- Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Contribution to the MDGs, livelihood and sustainable development



## **CBD Parties are expected to:**

- **Develop or update** NBSAPs and regional BSAPs including targets ( + models and scenarios)
- **Implement** them including targets at national, regional and international levels
- Mobilize the necessary **resources**
- Develop and use **monitoring** tools (+ indicators)
- Prepare reports (national reports and contributions to **GBO 4 and 5**)

## **Tasks foreseen in UNDB draft strategy for the scientific community:**

- Develop in priority sets of data, indicators and baselines on public attitudes and opinions regarding biodiversity (**part of Aichi target 1**)
- Develop a medium-term programme of research at the global level (**part of Aichi target 19**)
- Support programmes for science communication (**part of Aichi target 19**)
- Promote synergies with United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification 2010 - 2020 (**part of Aichi target 5**)
- Describe the role of biodiversity-friendly business practices in a green economy, and integrate in national accounts and economic activity (**part of Aichi targets 3 and 4**)

# The scientific community should address issues beyond strategic objective A of the SP for Biodiversity 2011-2020

**Address** gaps in the basic understandings, knowledge and methodologies **for implementation of the other strategic goals:**

- B “Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use”
- C “Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity”
- D “Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services” and
- E “Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building”

“ ... We also know there are known unknowns [...]. But there are also unknown unknowns”





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# Member of the scientific community:

In **UNDB draft strategy** =  
Scientific expertise and skills  
in science communication and  
education i.e.

- Botanical Gardens
- Zoos
- Natural History Museums

## But

- species centered
- no microorganisms and ecosystems
- methods of study based more on observation rather than experimentation

## Relevant members of the scientific community =

scientific (biological and socioeconomic) disciplines including traditional knowledge and citizen science:

- Research programmes and institutions
- Scientific organisations, associations and societies
- NGOs and IGOs
- UN organisations
- Scientific bodies of relevant MEAs ✓

Scientific community **goes beyond** botanical gardens, zoos and natural history museums



# How to mobilize the scientific community?

## Some challenges

- The scientific community represents a **broad landscape** thus, requires a **broad range of mechanisms** for ensuring their engagement
- Some of these organisations have **no or only a slight idea about CBD**, its COP's decisions and even UN processes including UN decades
- Calls by COP or UN General Assembly reach **only a certain category** of scientific organisations
- New ways and means to reach out to all relevant scientific organisations **should be explored**: social networks (e.g. Twitter and Facebook), incentives

# How to mobilize the scientific community?

## Build on experience

- Mobilisation within CBD
- Mobilisation at the national and regional levels
- Mobilisation at the international level



# Mobilization of the scientific community: How within CBD?

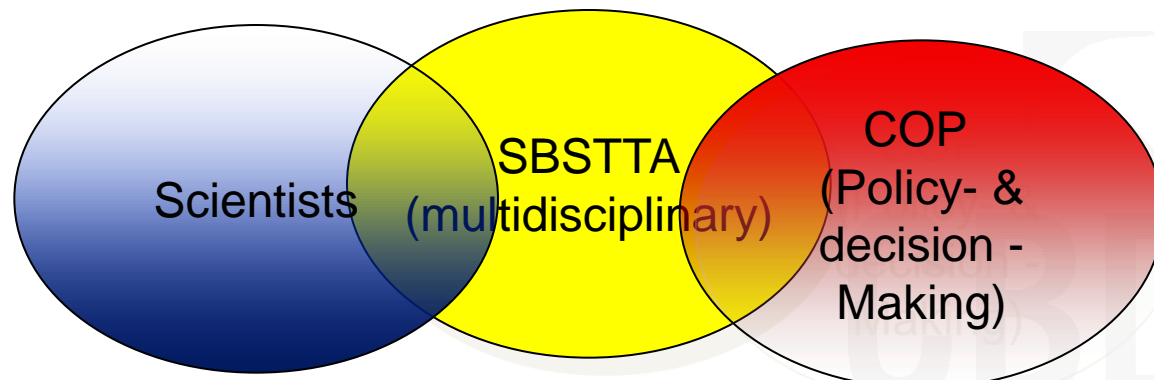
## Case of SBSTTA:

- In-session: participating members and 63-137 organisations
- Intersessionally through the CBD Secretariat and AHTEGs

**Achievements:** **excellent** (programmes of work, work on cross-cutting issues, approaches, guidelines, strategies, Global Biodiversity Outlooks)

## But concerns raised about SBSTTA's effectiveness

- Mini-Conference of the Parties
- More government representatives than scientists
- **No scientific discussions but pre-prepared statements** ✓
- **No time to consider (its AHTEG) assessments in depth** ✓



SBSTTA is at the interface

## Mobilization of the scientific community: **How at the national and regional levels?**

- Many mechanisms but wide differences among countries

### **However,**

- Many scientists are **not involved** in CBD processes and know little or nothing about the Strategic Plan and the UNDB
- Funded research of **little relevance** to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity
- Some of the needs in the Strategic Plan are broad (multidisciplinary) and require **long term investments of time, and financial and human resources**
- **Cost** involved in collection and processing of data usually high
- When scientific information is available, policy and decision-makers may **not use** it for different reasons

# Mobilization of the scientific community

## How at the international level?

### IPBES: **promising science-policy interface**

- **Knowledge generation**
- **Assessments of knowledge**
- **Support to policy** formulation and implementation
- **Capacity building** to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and catalysis of related fund-raising



## Some **points to note about IPBES**

- Currently IPBES is not or **little attracting scientists beyond usual MEAs** scientific bodies and partners
  - ✓ Lack of awareness
  - ✓ Allergy to intergovernmental set-ups
  - ✓ Breath of science not well represented
  - ✓ Problems of ownership and future support
- Possible overlap in mandates and support for SBSTTA (including financial) and risks of unnecessary duplication
- Proposed annual **budget of IPBES +/- = CBD Secretariat** core budget
- **Taxonomic problem in name IPBES:** “ecosystem services” should not be distinct from biodiversity

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# Way forward

## ■ At national and regional level:

- ✓ Gather and disseminate information on existing mechanisms serving as science – policy interface (objectives, feasibility, effectiveness and efficiency)
- ✓ Establish new ones where needed e.g. Guyana Center on LCD
- ✓ Commitment of governments and incentives needed
- ✓ Criteria for selection of research to be funded should include relevance to Strategic Plan
- ✓ Better communication from the scientific community

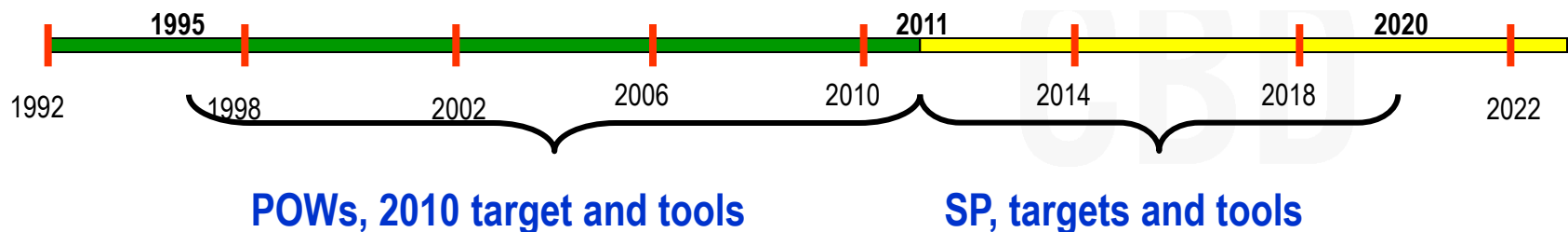


## ■ IPBES (under development)

- ✓ Reach out
- ✓ Attract support

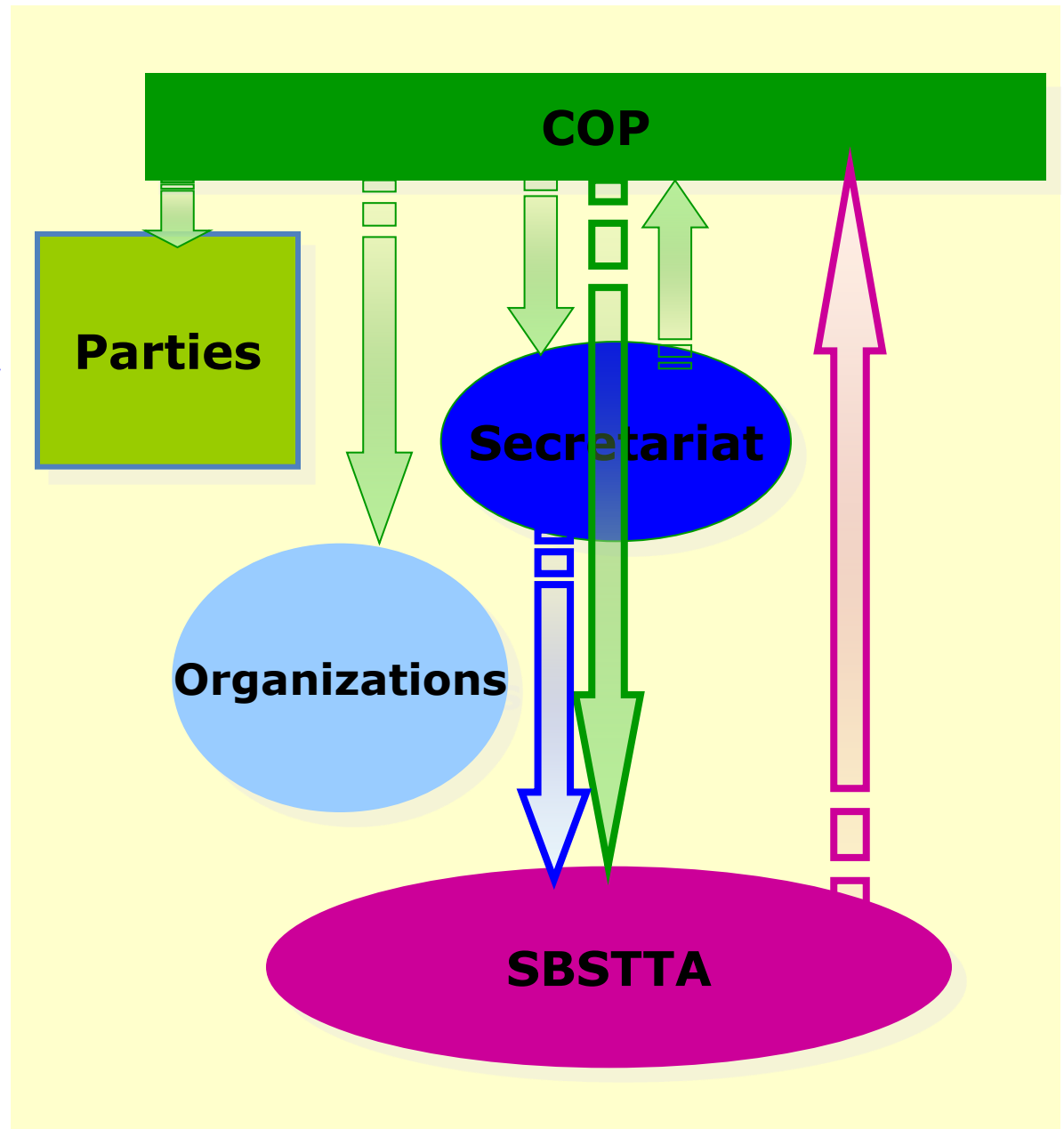
## ■ SBSTTA:

- ✓ More support for SBSTTA





1. COP formulates a request to SBSTTA
2. Executive Secretary prepares documentation for SBSTTA
3. SBSTTA develops its advice or recommendations to COP
4. COP decisions



# **SBSTTA-15: Ways and means to become more scientific and attract scientific community for the SP and UNDB**

## **SBSTTA should**

- **Propose to COP-11 its multi-year action plan for the SP and UNDB**
- **Request means for implementation of the plan**

*Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure. (George Edward Woodberry)*



# Proposed SBSTTA action plan for the Strategic Plan and the UN Decade on Biodiversity

(in line with SBSTTA mandate)

1. Scientific information needed for the implementation of the SP and each of the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (input to NBSAPs and regional BSAPs) (para 2(a), (b) and (c) of Article 25)
2. Compile latest information/data from assessments of the status and trends of biodiversity and of threats, and of actions taken, including scenarios, in preparation for **GBO-4 and GBO-5** (para 2(a) & (b) of Article 25)
3. **Communicate** knowledge gaps identified through these studies to scientific and research organisations
4. Identify, among these, activities best for **IPBES**, if any
5. Serve as the **scientific body of the Protocols** (Biosafety, ABS, and Liability & redress)

# **SBSTTA-15: Request of means for implementation of the proposed action plan**

- **Budget for adoption by COP:** its meetings, meetings of its Bureau, meetings of AHTEGs and Working Groups/Task Forces it wishes to establish, meetings of its Chairs and relevant activities of the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat.
- **Time:**
  - ✓ to discuss assessments of observed and projected status and trends of biodiversity and threats
  - ✓ to explain scientific rationales for recommendations



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# Time

## SBSTTA 15:

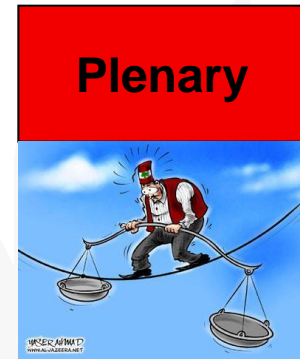
- 3 strategic items and 5 other items
- For each strategic item: 180 minutes i.e. < 1 minute/Party
- Then contact groups or Friends-of-the-Chair groups (English only)



Delicate  
balance



Very delicate  
balance



Extremely  
delicate  
balance

- Have few items/SBSTTA meeting and/or change organization of work
- Possible scenario: **Monday & Tuesday**: one key item;  
**Wednesday and Thursday**: other items from COP requests;  
**Friday**: adoption of the report

# A budget for SBSTTA

- I was impressed by Governments' support to ABS process



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## **ABS and SBSTTA meetings between COP-9 and COP-10**

|                                | <b>Number</b>                                       | <b>Cost in US \$</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>ABS meetings planned</b>    | 6   | 1 968 091.64         |
| <b>ABS meetings held</b>       | 12<br>(excluding meetings held during COP 9 and 10) | 3 243 674.57         |
| <b>SBSTTA meetings planned</b> | 1<br>(1 week)                                       | 650 000              |
| <b>SBSTTA-14</b>               | 1<br>(2 weeks)                                      |                      |



# If Parties want it

- **SBSTTA can contribute very effectively to the mobilization of the scientific community for the implementation of the SP and its Aichi targets, for the UNDB**
  - ✓ Plan of action
  - ✓ Budget
  - ✓ Support intersessionally: expert groups and CBD Secretariat
  - ✓ In-session: time and nature of items
- **SBSTTA can effectively fulfill its role of interface between the scientific community and policy and decision-makers**

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# Secretariat

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COP

Secretariat

Presession docs  
INF docs  
CBD Technical Series  
Other publications

SBSTTA-15

## Thanks for exchanging ideas:

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They have no responsibility for any of the points I made in this presentation.



**L**earning

**L**eadership

**L**ove

CBD