



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Eighteenth meeting

Montreal, 23-28 June 2014

**IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES UNDER
THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS: SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF
THE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY ON THE FORMAT OF THE SEVENTEENTH
MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

I. BACKGROUND

1. The seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 17) was held from 14-18 October 2013 in Montreal. The agenda and format of SBSTTA 17 were designed to promote scientific and technical discussions and exchanges, thereby enabling an examination and exchange of experiences, from a scientific and technical perspective, of the use of tools and guidance for supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The report of this meeting is contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/2.

2. In its recommendation XVII/1, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to conduct an evaluation of the approach and format used in SBSTTA 17, as part of his work in response to paragraph 2 of decision XI/10 on improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its Protocols, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting. A first review document, including the results of the survey conducted at the end of SBSTTA 17, is contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/1.

3. To enable further evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of the approach and format used in SBSTTA 17, and in order to guide the planning for future meetings of SBSTTA, Parties and observer organizations were invited to participate in a survey related to SBSTTA 17 and on the format of subsequent meetings of the body.

4. By 18 March 2014, 19 Parties and five organizations had responded to the survey.¹ Responses were received from all regions as well as from developing and developed countries. Some respondents did not respond to all of the survey questions. The survey results were similar when responses from all respondents and responses only from Parties were considered. For this

¹ Responses were received from Australia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, the European Commission, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sudan, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen as well as from BirdLife, DIVERSITAS, SEARICE, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).

reason, the graphs in this note show responses from all respondents. Responses only from Parties are contained in annex I. The survey also provided an opportunity for respondents to substantiate their responses with written comments. The written comments that were received are contained in annex II to this note. The survey that was distributed is contained annex III.

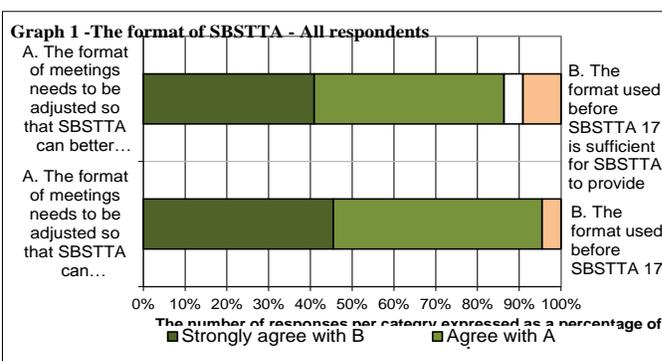
II. SURVEY RESULTS

5. The survey contained three sets of questions. The first set focused on the format of SBSTTA meetings prior to SBSTTA 17. The second set considered issues related to the format used at SBSTTA 17 and the third set considered issues related to the format of future SBSTTA meetings.

The format of SBSTTA meetings prior to SBSTTA 17

6. The first part of the survey invited Parties and organizations to provide their comments on the SBSTTA format used prior to SBSTTA 17. The questions in this section of the survey invited Parties to indicate their degree of support for two sets of statements that were presented in opposition to one another.

7. The majority of survey respondents indicated that the format of SBSTTA meetings needs to be adjusted so that the Body could better provide guidance on scientific and technical aspects related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and be able to effectively respond to all aspects of its mandate.



The format used at SBSTTA 17

8. The survey also invited Parties and organizations to comment on the format used during the seventh meeting of SBSTTA. The questions in this section of the survey invited Parties and organizations to indicate their degree of satisfaction with the manner in which different elements of the SBSTTA 17 meetings were organized (see a detailed breakdown of the responses in graph 2 below).

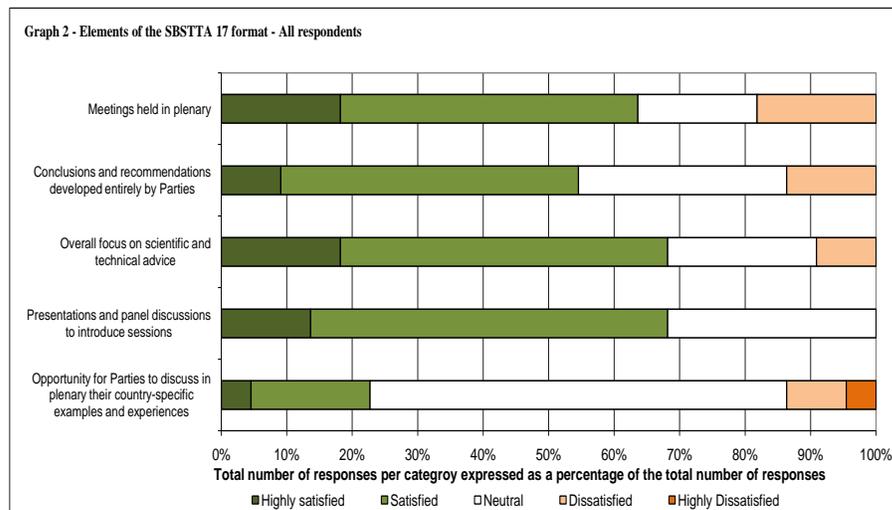
9. More than 60% of respondents indicated that they were highly satisfied or satisfied with the meeting being held in plenary. About 18% of respondents were dissatisfied with meetings occurring entirely in plenary.

10. Slightly more than half of the survey respondents indicated that they were either highly satisfied or satisfied with having conclusions and recommendations developed entirely by Parties while less than 14% were dissatisfied.

11. More than 65% of the survey respondents were either highly satisfied or satisfied with the overall focus on scientific and technical advice during the meeting. Less than 10% of respondents were dissatisfied with this focus.

12. More than 65% of the survey respondents were satisfied or highly satisfied with the presentations and panel discussions held to introduce the different sessions during SBSTTA 17. The remaining respondents were neutral on this issue.

13. With regard to the opportunities provided for Parties to discuss their country specific examples and experiences during plenary, the majority of respondents were neutral. Slightly more respondents indicated that they were either highly satisfied or satisfied (about 23%) than those that indicated that they were dissatisfied or highly dissatisfied (about 14%). The majority of respondents (about 63%) were neutral on this issue.



The format of future SBSTTA meetings

14. The third section of the survey invited Parties and organizations to provide information related to the format of future meetings of SBSTTA. This section of the survey invited Parties and organizations to indicate their degree of support for a set of six sets of statements which were contrasted with one another (see graph 3 for a detailed breakdown of the responses).

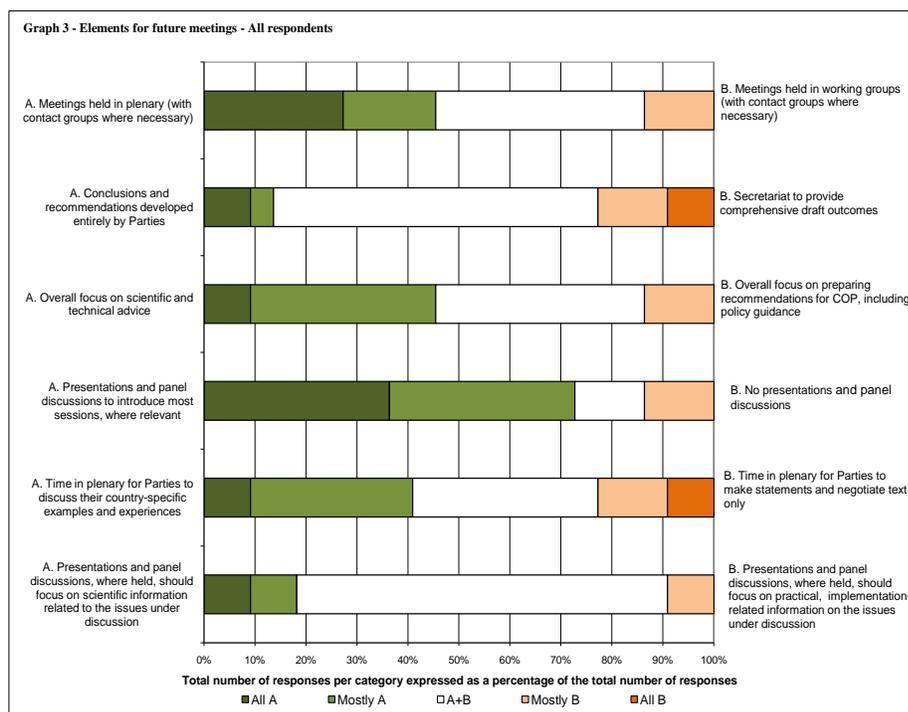
15. In relation to the convening of SBSTTA meetings in plenary, approximately 45% of respondents felt that meetings of SBSTTA should take place entirely in plenary or mostly in plenary. A similar proportion of participants felt that meetings should take place in both plenary and working groups. Less than 14% of respondents felt that SBSTTA should take place mostly in working groups.

16. With regard to the development of SBSTTA conclusions and recommendations, the survey results indicate that a majority of respondents (about 64%) felt that these should be

developed by the Parties to the Convention with the Secretariat providing comprehensive draft outcomes before the start of the meeting. A minority of Parties (about 9%) felt that SBSTTA conclusions and recommendations should be developed entirely by Parties.

17. More than 40% of respondents indicated that SBSTTA should have an overall focus on providing scientific and technical advice, while a similar proportion of respondents felt that SBSTTA should focus on providing scientific and technical advice, as well as focus on preparing recommendations for the Conference of the Parties, including policy guidance. Fewer than 15% of respondents felt that SBSTTA should mostly have an overall focus on preparing recommendations for the Conference of the Parties.

18. With regard to the use of presentations and panel discussions to introduce SBSTTA sessions, most respondents felt that these should be used in future meetings of the Body. Fewer than 15% of respondents felt that there should largely be no presentations and panel discussions during future SBSTTA meetings. Further, the majority of respondents (about 73%) felt that presentations and panel discussions, if they are held, should focus on scientific information related to the issues being discussed during the meeting as well as on practical implementation related information on the issues being discussed.

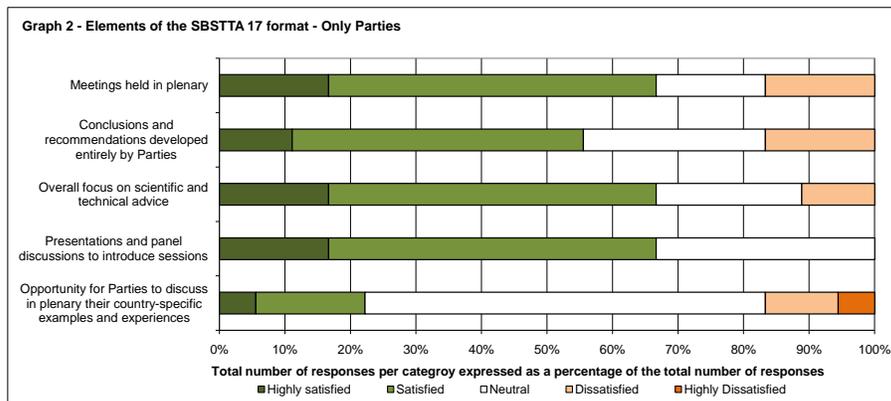
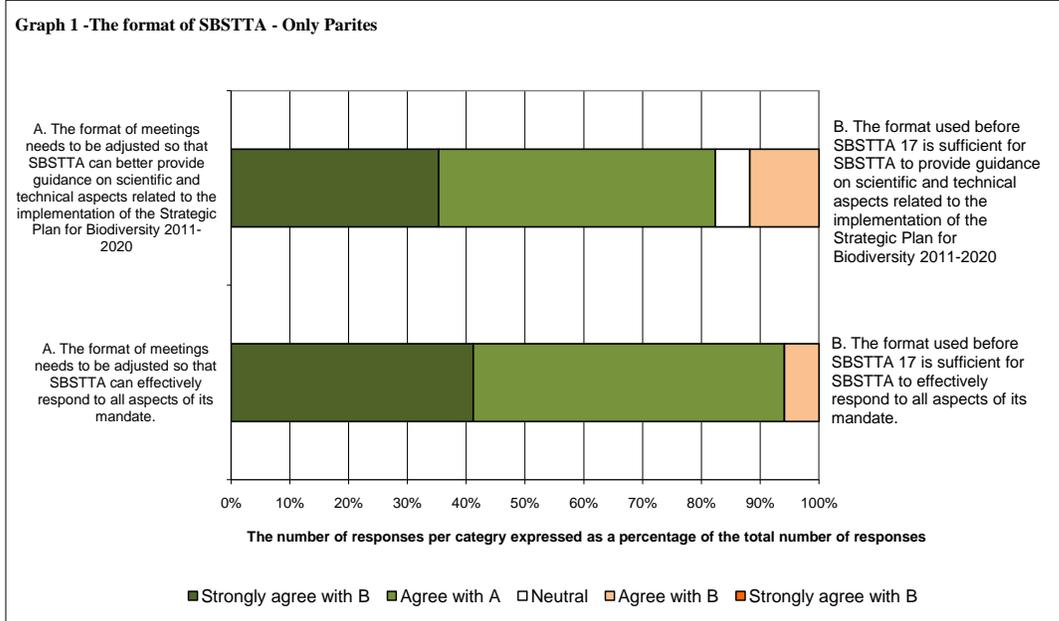


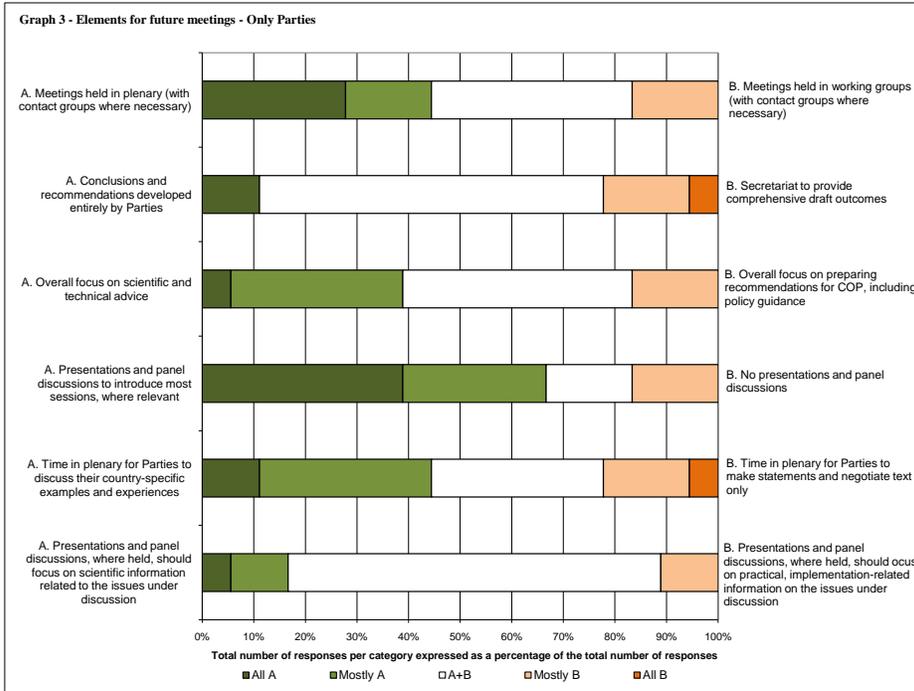
III. CONCLUSIONS

19. The results of the follow-up survey on the format of the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice are broadly consistent with

the information gathered through the initial survey on the SBSTTA 17 format (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/INF/1). However the number of responses to the second survey was relatively small and this needs to be considered in interpreting the results.

Annex I





Annex II

WRITTEN COMMENTS PROVIDED THROUGH THE SURVEY

Responses to questions in section II of the survey on elements of the SBSTTA 17 format					
Country/ Organization	Meetings held in plenary	Conclusions and recommendations developed entirely by Parties	Overall focus on scientific and technical advice	Presentations and panel discussions to introduce sessions	Opportunity for Parties to discuss in plenary their country-specific examples and experiences
Australia		<p>We agree that the SBSTTA 17 format allowed for Parties to drive the process for developing and reaching agreement on conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>We also note the constraints of the process are that the plenary becomes too wieldy to manage the discussion of all views of Parties and can lead to fewer outcomes.</p> <p>A move towards working groups and contact groups as necessary could be a more efficient approach.</p>	<p>We felt that many of the country statements delivered during SBSTTA 17 did not add to the scientific or technical knowledge of the group. Stronger guidance from the Secretariat prior to the meeting may assist in ensuring closer alignment between country statements and the SBSTTA agenda.</p> <p>There did not appear to be a focus on scientific or technical advice during SBSTTA 17; its focus was more on information sharing. This was beneficial but did not go to the objective of disseminating scientific or technical advice.</p>	<p>The introduction of speakers and panel discussions on key topics was valuable as a tool to stimulate discussion across a broad range of subjects.</p> <p>The presentations and panel discussions were varied in their relevance, and it was difficult to ensure that all Parties interests were accommodated. Perhaps a more thematic or targeted approach would be beneficial. That being said, some presentations were of extreme relevance to our country.</p> <p>For this format to be viable in the future, it would be useful to know the speakers and their topics well in advance of the meeting (at least 6 weeks prior to the meeting). This would facilitate preparations by delegates in the lead up to the meetings to ensure that their interventions and national positions are relevant to the topics raised in discussion. It would also be useful to consider whether Parties could contribute to the nomination of speakers and topics for discussion in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>These sections of the plenary went far too long and the timing was not adhered to. Many countries made statements that were not relevant to that agenda item. However, it was beneficial to hear the statements. Perhaps stricter time adherence is required.</p>
China	It enabled participants to have a general and comprehensive view of the progress and issues that were reflected.	It is understandable that conclusions were drawn by parties based on discussions and sharing of information. But recommendations need detailed negotiation and drafting them during the meeting by Parties was in a rush and exerted a huge burden on	They were scientific and technical discussions but the advice part was a little bit weak.		It would be better and much more highlighted if a section is set up for countries to share their own experience rather than to mix experience, comments on recommendations and general statement together.

		participants.			
Ecuador	Ecuador could not attend SBSTTA 17, because the CBD Secretariat did not have financial assistance for our delegate.	Ecuador could not attend SBSTTA 17	Ecuador could not attend SBSTTA 17	Ecuador could not attend SBSTTA 17	Ecuador could not attend SBSTTA 17
Japan	The process for selecting panelist was unclear. Regional balance should be considered for the selection. And the programme was notified just before the meeting, which was too late	It was an efficient way to reach consensus on conclusions and recommendations since it was discussed among representatives from each region within a short time. However, even if so, the Secretariat should prepare the draft conclusions and recommendations.	SBSTTA should focus on its original role defined by Article 25 of the Convention.	The process for selecting panelist was unclear. Regional balance should be considered for the selection.	
Mexico	Las reuniones celebradas en Plenaria fueron satisfactorias en el sentido de que se realizó un esfuerzo para que las intervenciones de las Partes fueran concretas sobre las necesidades y retos que tienen la implementación del Plan Estratégico 2011-2020. Además este formato, facilita el seguimiento a las delegaciones pequeñas. Podría mejorarse el mecanismo de intercambio de opiniones después de las presentaciones de los expertos.	Entre los diferentes resultados de un foro científico, deben ser recomendaciones para que la COP tome nota de las conclusiones, hallazgos, herramientas y sólo cuando sea necesario, borradores de decisión. El no contar con recomendaciones previamente redactadas, permitió que las Partes pudieran discutir objetivamente las necesidades y retos para la implementación del Plan Estratégico, sin perder tiempo en negociar textos, lo cual tuvo resultados positivos. Consideramos que esto permitió reforzar la apropiación del proceso. Las recomendaciones resultado de un debate ordenado son mejores, por ello, la preparación previa de los documentos de trabajo es fundamental para orientar los debates técnicos y permitir el intercambio de opiniones durante la reunión.	De manera general, consideramos que la reunión realizó esfuerzos importantes para enfatizar el carácter técnico y científico del SBSTTA. De manera particular, consideramos que resultó de gran utilidad que las Partes expresaran sus necesidades y retos para la implementación del Plan Estratégico 2011-2020, en lugar de que expresaran aisladamente sus avances.	Las presentaciones fueron de gran ayuda para desarrollar debates más ricos, concretos y sobre temas específicos, en un ambiente más relajado y productivo, al no estar negociando.	Las presentaciones fueron de gran ayuda para desarrollar debates más ricos, concretos y sobre temas específicos, en un ambiente más relajado y productivo, al no estar negociando.
Nepal	It would be worth considering one party-one intervention per theme in these meetings. This may provide reasonable	This has encouraged parties to participate more actively in all events	In future meetings effort should be made for balanced representation of thematic area, Geographical coverage.	Access to these presentations well in advance would increase the possibility of critical response during discussion	Sufficient time needs to be allocated for parties to discuss. Another option could be to organize side event to discuss common experiences (theme

	time to all parties				wise) by parties and present the outcome during plenary
New Zealand	It was useful to have all Parties in the room and have views exchanged in that format. This is how most scientific bodies operate.	Secretariat support is needed in the process whereby Parties develop and negotiate conclusions and recommendations.	The scientific discussions were interesting, but it would be useful to have a mechanism to distil the information into some form of scientific and technical advice that can be easily picked up and used by policy makers, as per the SBSTTA mandate.	While the content of the presentations and panel discussion was useful, there were too many speakers for the timeslot available and it may be preferable to have fewer speakers who could engage more comprehensively. This would also allow more time for interaction between the panelists and Parties.	Positional statements made by Parties are insufficient. What is needed is examples and practical experience, positive and negative, which are relevant to and address the issue being discussed. This will promote greater information exchange and support capacity building.
Norway	This is depending on what is discussed (and also available time and resources). For scientific presentations/ panels and other introductions to the topics being discussed the plenary setting works well, but for discussions and exchange of views among Parties smaller settings are preferable as it allows more focused debates and more interaction between parties on particular topics where they share interests. SBSTTA (being a subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice) must be informed by science, but is not a scientific conference. In negotiations plenary is good for the first reading (which also can cover specific country experiences). The "level of disagreement" will decide if agreement can be reached in plenary or if a smaller setting is needed). The prepared documents (with draft recommendations) will help to catalyze the discussions	Meetings must follow adopted modus operandi for the body (see also one comment under section III)	The mandate of SBSTTA is the provision of scientific and technical advice, - and follow modus operandi	Presentations can be valuable to introduce sessions and to pinpoint particular challenges and developments etc. Discussions (panel and plenary) could have more added value in a smaller settings. See also below.	Discussions in plenary does not give sufficient interactions in such a large forum with 500-600 delegates
Sudan	Exchange of scientific information	For the purpose of the ownership and transparency	The nature and the role of SBSTTA	Allow for exchange of information	Help in Exchange of information
United Kingdom	This depends on the nature of the discussion. For information exchange,	SBSTTA is intended to be a scientific and technical advisory body. This means it should seek	SBSTTA should focus on issues where scientific and technical advice is required by CoP to	Some topics, but it is difficult to capture the detail and subtleties of arguments presented and	This was the least productive part of the SBSTTA17 meeting. Inevitably Parties experiences

	<p>sharing of experience and development of recommendations it would be more effective to discuss in smaller, facilitated groups.</p> <p>For agreement on recommendations to be submitted to CoP, or other information to be issued by SBSTTA, then meetings should be held in plenary or working groups.</p> <p>Some plenary meetings are therefore needed, complemented by working groups, contact groups and smaller informal sessions depending on the issue under discussion.</p>	<p>and utilise the knowledge and expertise of scientific experts. It is not possible for delegations of Parties to include all the necessary scientific expertise or to have an in-depth scientific dialogue on all topics. Therefore it is important to receive input from a wider and balanced range of experts. Any such inputs should then be reviewed, amended if necessary and endorsed by Parties for onward transmission to CoP where decision making is required. The Secretariat clearly has an important role in compiling information and this may be supplemented by formal or informal technical groups and external reviews, subject to resources. Bodies such as IPBES will provide an important source of evidence and policy options for consideration by SBSTTA.</p> <p>Parties also need the opportunity to consult with relevant experts in preparation for meetings and cannot be expected to have the necessary expertise available on the spot to address a broad range of topics. Where there is a narrow topic for discussion, some Parties (with larger delegations) may be able to include relevant experts on their delegations (but this may not promote a balanced discussion).</p> <p>Initial recommendations should continue to be developed by the Secretariat on the basis of the work of expert groups or submissions to ensure a neutrality of approach.</p>	<p>enable it to take informed decisions. SBSTTA should avoid straying into political discussions, which should be dealt with at WGRI or CoP. We are not convinced that the format adopted for SBSTTA 17 is the best way to ensure that this happens.</p> <p>The interface with IPBES also needs to be further developed so that (a) IPBES is fully informed of the scientific and technical needs of the CBD and (b) SBSTTA can make full use of the scientific and technical knowledge and tools generated by IPBES to formulate its advice, avoiding duplication between the two bodies.</p>	<p>translate these into recommendations on the spot. The purpose and content of presentations need to be carefully considered and balanced but this puts a lot of pressure on presenters to give a synthesis, rather than a particular perspective. It would be helpful to have a background document prepared in advance, for national consultations, which could then illustrated and discussed in panel sessions. This of course involves more preparation.</p> <p>Presentations and panel discussions should be timed so as to allow sufficient time for the discussion of recommendations to CoP.</p>	<p>differ greatly and may or may not be of value to other Parties. In plenary the time available is very limited and there is no opportunity for a thread of discussion to develop or a dialogue on a particular issue. Parties have a lot to offer and some Parties submitted written case studies to avoid taking up too much time speaking. However these case studies were not effectively shared by the Secretariat.</p> <p>The side events already provide one effective means of more detailed discussion on particular topics, and this could be further enhanced by more structured approach (e.g. a series of side events on a particular topic).</p> <p>Instead of exchange of experience in a plenary setting it may be better to organise discussion amongst Parties in smaller groups around particular issues that are directly focussed on the key issues for CoP and supporting decision making by Parties.</p>
<p>Birdlife</p>		<p>BirdLife praises the openness of the CBD processes to observers, including for the participation at most of the</p>		<p>The approach of having sessions with keynote presentations on determined Goal of the Strategic Plan for</p>	<p>The second part of the technical sessions - when the floor was opened for Parties to make general comments beyond the</p>

		<p>friends of the chair groups, document preparation phase, etc. Having documents in advance of the meetings allows NGOs to study the content and plan contributions. Considering that one of the fundamental contributions of NGOs can be technical and scientific, SBSTTA would be the ideal forum for that to happen. The model at SBSTTA didn't allow much room for participation, though.</p>		<p>Biodiversity followed by short notes per Aichi Target within that Goal seemed a very interesting one.</p>	<p>experts' presentations - allowed for a long list of declaration of national achievements. Those could well be the content of the national reports. We must say that although highly valued that the Parties share their examples, we find it that time could be used more wisely, bringing lessons learned and technical information. Hence, Parties should be encouraged to share their examples in a more structured/innovative way. This could be possibly achieved if they were informed of the topics which to be approached at the meeting and offered with a quick guide/template for reporting on experiences.</p>
SEARICE				<p>While the presentations were helpful, and the presenters were highly qualified, the selection of topics (and presenters, to a certain degree) should be Party-driven. More information on the presenter and the content of the presentation well before the session will also help enrich panel discussion.</p>	
UNEP-WCMC	<p>While the plenary is the most appropriate forum for the briefings that were provided, and the related Q&A and discussion, it may not have been the most appropriate forum for sharing of information and experience or to have a scientific or technical debate.</p>	<p>With respect to the process there was some confusion during SBSTTA 17, and it remains unclear what the value of the conclusions appended to Recommendation 1 will be. Given the only operative paragraph in the recommendation relating to these is that the COP should take note of them. Are there ways in which this information can be more effectively used, and is this happening?</p>	<p>As the mandate of SBSTTA is to provide advice to COP, the answer to this question depends in large measure on whether COP12 receives the advice that it has requested of SBSTTA during this intersessional period.</p>	<p>One good example was the presentation from the GEOBON workshop into SBSTTA plenary- as a concise way to communicate expert input. This could be replicated for other expert workshops/issues in the future.</p>	<p>We are not convinced that plenary is the best place for this. A completely reformed system for side events could be another means of facilitating this. Alternatively promote and encourage more associated meetings like the Trondheim</p>
WWF	<p>Meeting held in Plenary added transparency but it was possible since the agenda was not so heavy. Certain scientific and technical discussions may benefit from smaller sets.</p>	<p>Recommendations entirely developed by Parties can turn in a time consuming process. This was possible in SBSTTA-17 since the agenda was not so heavy and only few recommendations were</p>	<p>As we think that SBSTTA is not a pure scientific and technical body, we felt that at its 17th meeting the scientific information and the practical implementation-related information and the resulting</p>	<p>Even if some presentations were dull or not relevant, there were others which added good value to the following sessions.</p>	<p>It was important to receive an overview of Parties experiences, but this must be kept concise. For added information, written reports can be useful. Even if Plenary is not the most adequate set for sharing</p>

		produced.	policy guidance and scientific and technical advice, were well balanced.		examples and experiences, it is hardly impossible to maintain discussion of examples and experiences in Plenary.	
Responses to questions in section III of the survey on elements for future meetings						
Country/ Organization	Meetings held in plenary (with contact groups where necessary) Vs. Meetings held in working groups (with contact groups where necessary)	Conclusions and recommendations developed entirely by Parties Vs. Secretariat to provide comprehensive draft outcomes	Overall focus on scientific and technical advice Vs. Overall focus on preparing recommendations for COP, including policy guidance	Presentations and panel discussions to introduce most sessions, where relevant Vs. No presentations and panel discussions	Time in plenary for Parties to discuss their country-specific examples and experiences Vs. Time in plenary for Parties to make statements and negotiate text only	Presentations and panel discussions, where held, should focus on scientific information related to the issues under discussion Vs. Presentations and panel discussions, where held, should focus on practical, implementation-related information on the issues under discussion
Australia	The plenary is too wieldy to manage all Parties views. A move towards working groups and contact groups as necessary could be a more efficient approach. Plenary should be kept for high-level information sharing and key decisions.	Parties need to ensure that they have the ability to negotiate to ensure red lines are respected and reflected in any outcomes.	SBSTTA should focus on its mandate of providing scientific and technical advice to the CoP, this should include providing policy advice and recommendations.	Whilst the presentation and panel discussions were interesting, the size and diversity of interests across Parties means that the topics will have more or less relevance to different Parties and may therefore not be the most efficient use of participants' time. Perhaps less time on presentations and panel discussions and more time for Parties to hear from each other on specific issues would be a better balance. Alternatively/additionally, an expert could be invited to talk about the agenda item and facilitate an outcomes-focused discussion.	Plenary country statements are useful as they help to identify others who are trying to achieve similar outcomes. If working groups and contact groups are used for negotiating that should be more efficient than using plenary for this.	It would be good if the presentations and discussions were focused on particular issues – however, they will also need to cover implementation related information as they go hand in hand. As stated above, less and more targeted presentations and discussions may be more effective.
China	It would enable party participants, especially those with a small delegation to have full participation in and a	It would be better that the Secretariat draft recommendations so that parties would be better prepared and have more time		The panelists may be selected from different groups, such as parties, international organizations, academia,	The two sections should be separated	

	thorough view of meeting proceedings	to negotiate. As for conclusions, parties can draft based on discussions.		civil societies and indigenous and local communities so that presentations will show diversified views and cases.		
DIVERSITAS			Future Meetings of SBSTTA should have both element of A and B – giving SBSTTA the opportunity to examine the most recent science contributing to preparation of recommendations for COP.	This model should be pursued in future SBSTTA meetings.	Using an interactive way, directly related to information given by panelists, and not with long statements or listing all activities. There could be another place – like on the website – where parties could provide more detailed information on their activities related to the topics discussed.	
Ecuador	Ecuador had few participants in these meetings. Sometimes we could not be in all working groups	Ecuador consider that is better to work from draft outcomes	Ecuador considers that the overall focus be on preparing recommendations for COP. We do not agree on including policy guidance.	Presentations are important because some countries have more information about technical issues	Time in plenary for Parties to make statements and negotiate text is better because we have limited time and is necessary establish agreements.	
European Commission	The format will strongly depend on the issues to be discussed. In case of politically sensitive issues, plenary meetings may not be most efficient way to make progress.	Again, this will very much depend on the conclusions/ recommendations to be developed. In case of politically sensitive issues, drafts provided by the Secretariat may be useful to save negotiation time.	The mandate of SBSTTA may need to be revisited with regard to the newly established IPBES, which will focus on scientific and technical issues on the basis of which SBSTTA will provide advice to COP. The initial focus on scientific and technical advice adopted for SBSTTA will need to shift to overall focus on preparing recommendations for COP. However, policy guidance should remain the focus of WGRI.	Presentations should be kept to a very limited number and carefully selected. The Panel discussion format allows for more Parties to express their views and present their developments, which is very interesting and important.	Normally, plenary meetings should not be used for negotiating text but again, this depends on the type of issues to be discussed.	Both aspects are important: practical implementation and latest update on scientific developments.
Japan	In-depth discussions are	In SBSTTA 17, secretariat had		As long as time permits,		

	usually taking place in each contact group, so, Japan does not regard working groups necessary. Furthermore, concurrent working groups' style requires more expenses and could be disadvantageous to small countries with only a few delegates.	not prepared draft recommendation before the meeting. On one hand, this approach was a meaningful trial to promote more open discussions to all members and observers, however on the other hand, provide less time for participants to deepen their dialogue in a process to reach more substantive recommendations and conclusion. Therefore, Japan support secretariat's working method to prepare draft recommendation or at least, points for discussion, before the meeting as a springboard for the member's discussions.		presentation and panel discussions would be useful.		
Mali	Avantage d'une participation pleine de tous ceux qui le souhaitent, aux débats soutenus grâce à l'interprétation dans les différentes langues	Avantage d'une réflexion anticipée qui peut être amendée	Des bons avis scientifiques débouchent de bonnes recommandations pertinentes		Il y'a des expériences qui sont plus ennuyeuses que instructives	
Mexico	Proponemos un ciclo con dos reuniones del SBSTTA entre sesiones de la COP, donde la primera sea más Elemento A, que permita más debates técnicos, mientras que la segunda opere en Elemento B, para redactar borradores de Decisión para la CoP.	Tomando en cuenta el ciclo propuesto en la pregunta anterior, las conclusiones y recomendaciones deben ser escritas conjuntamente entre las Partes y la Secretaría, donde la Secretaría puede analizar y proponer enmiendas a las Decisiones existentes para su actualización y consolidación temática, eliminando texto obsoleto y adicionando textos nuevos cuando sea necesario.	Se debe asegurar que el SBSTTA tenga un carácter más científico y técnico, centrado en atender las necesidades y retos que las Partes tengan ante la implementación de los compromisos derivados del Convenio, que podría incluir el intercambio de experiencias, casos de éxito y avances de implementación. Evitar ser una mini-Cop o hacer funciones del WGRI.	Dependiendo del ciclo del SBSTTA en el periodo intersesional ya que el primero debe ser más de A, mientras que el segundo, puede ser más de B.	Como se mencionó anteriormente, esto dependerá de a qué reunión se refiera. La opción A podría adaptarse más a la primera reunión y la opción B en la segunda.	
Nepal	Plenary meetings are more interactive and provides opportunity for sharing and learning.	Greater level of engagement of parties in preparing conclusions and recommendations enhances quality of participation and	SBSTTA should focus on scientific and technical matters and at the same time should strengthen its	Arrangement should be made to invite parties to submit country specific experiences well in advance and make these	We suggest exploring innovative ways and means for parties to discuss their country-specific examples and	

		contributes in capacity building	role in preparing recommendations for COP and providing policy guidance	documents available on CBD	opportunities within the given period	
New Zealand	With well-chaired plenary sessions, well-written documents circulated well in advance, and clear expectations about outcomes, the meeting should be able to process its business in plenary, with some use of contact groups for a limited set of intractable issues.	Comments provided in earlier section.	Parties should be encouraged to make interventions and provide input appropriate to the nature of the session. For more 'exploratory' discussions, interventions should entail sharing of examples and practical experience. Political statements are more relevant when negotiating conclusions and recommendations. Strong and consistent chairing is necessary to ensure sessions stay on-task.	A balance is needed so that scientific and technical information provided assists practical implementation by Parties. See comment above as well.		
Norway	This is depending on the agenda (how many topics and sub-topics are on the agenda), and is also a budgetary question.	According to the modus operandi SBSTTA documents should include proposed conclusions and recommendations. We support the continuation of this. The information base for the secretariat when preparing the proposed conclusions and recommendations would of course cover a broad range of input: (i) from relevant submissions, (ii) from ATHEGs, (iii) from assessed material in the secretariat based on reports and other information from parties and (iv) from assessed material in the secretariat based on other sources.	In our view it is not possible to have either/or for this question. Based on scientific and technical advice - draft recommendations to the COP should be developed.	We support the practice of having scientific keynote presentations introducing main topics, but the main scientific/technical input will need to be given well in advance in the official documentation for the meeting to inform national preparations to the meeting. If we want to expand the time for additional scientific input we would propose to use one session (or day) after the first round of interventions from parties. If Wednesday (parts of Wednesday) could be used for this, the secretariat would also have somewhat more time in preparing the next set of documents (for contact groups or WG or	Countries might give country specific examples in their interventions to underline their message. For discussions and more in depth exchange of experiences among parties smaller settings are preferable and the system of side-events is very valuable in order to provide room for this	

				plenary)		
Sudan	it facilitated the contribution and participation of all parties in all issues especially for those parties with one representative	it could help in transparency in achieving outcomes of the meeting and also the ownership	The nature and role of SBSTTA is concerned with scientific work including provision of scientific information, data , assessment and analysis with scientific recommendations which should help in achievement and implementation of the convention	it help in exchange of information, and experiences	as above	
United Kingdom	As above, a mix of elements may be needed depending on the nature of topics and products.	As above, a wide range of scientific inputs need to be collated by the Secretariat, and recommendations drafted by the Secretariat for review by Parties. The scientific and technical aspects of the conclusions and recommendations should be scrutinized and endorsed by the Parties.	Not clear what the distinction is? The role of SBSTTA is to provide scientific and technical advice to COP and this is delivered in form of recommendations. The range of issues considered - from more scientific to more policy orientated - should be directly related to the requests made by COP, and any other emerging issues identified by SBSTTA. COP may provide SBSTTA with a mandate to provide advice or information to other bodies, but the focus will be defined in that mandate. There will be a need to review the role of SBSTTA in the light of IPBES.	Panel discussions can be helpful way of improving understanding of issues, but inevitably they tend to be selective in terms in the range of views/contexts, so should be underpinned by more comprehensive compilation/analysis of information that is made available in advance of the meeting. Panels can also use valuable time for discussion – so they should be considered where they can add most value, not as routine	We are not keen on either of the above. Country-specific examples are not the most effective use of plenary time. The secretariat should explore other means of more effectively sharing information through documents, side events, market place events, CHM, online forums etc. Plenary should be used for scientific and technical discussion of the issues on the agenda and agreement of recommendations to forward to COP.	Depends entirely on the purpose of the discussion.
BirdLife		The process of building conclusions and recommendations in a short period during the meeting itself doesn't easily allow time for well structured text to be built. It may happen that important references are left aside or	BirdLife welcomed the re-establishment of the original concept of the SBSTTA, recognizing the great value and unique opportunity of the international community sharing	Presentations allows for contextualizing the following discussions and the perspective of one specific topic under the Convention.	Presentations allows for contextualizing the following discussions and the perspective of one specific topic under the Convention.	

		<p>contradictions with previous decisions appear. Also it doesn't allow for all Parties to equally assess the documents, given just a small number of them can effectively be part of the writing group. For the amount of topics to be covered by the Convention it is already hard for Parties to follow all appropriately and having indications of content would be helpful.</p>	<p>views on the adequacy of existing, and needs for new, scientific and technical tools and methodologies on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. At previous SBSTTAs significant amount of time have been used for discussing the text of Resolutions and draft Decisions to COP. However, we've seen negotiations of some of these same drafts being restarted from scratch at COPs, when, if not all, most of the Parties to the CBD are present. While recognizing the role of SBSTTA in advising COP, it is not the political forum of the Convention. A possible alternative to avoid similar situations happening would be to have documents drafted in a way that the message is conveyed, but key decision words (such as 'taking note', 'urges', 'decides', etc.) are left for the COP to discuss upon, or some alternative along this line. That would allow Parties to focus on the actual content of the documents, but not the political implications, which would be for COP to do.</p>			
<p>UNEP-WCMC</p>	<p>It is difficult to comment properly on some of these questions until we</p>	<p>We think that there could be a significant shift towards conclusions and</p>	<p>We see this as being desirable, but difficult to achieve with the</p>	<p>We thought that this was very useful, and Parties seemed to value it.</p>	<p>Both functions are important, but (a) it is important to focus</p>	<p>Both issues should be addressed together.</p>

	<p>have also had the experience from SBSTTA 18 (which will likely have a larger agenda because of the way SBSTTA 17 was run). We suspect that, if SBSTTA is to achieve what it needs to between COPs then a mixture of plenary and separate working groups might be necessary and more efficient. The tendency, however, should be towards B smaller working groups, if SBSTTA is to properly discuss and debate scientific and technical issues and advice.</p>	<p>recommendations being developed during SBSTTA because of the improved sense this gives that SBSTTA is a scientific, technical and technological body. However in doing this recognition has to be given to the fact that this may result in even more time being spent on negotiation during COP. This seems an entirely correct approach, but needs to be effectively communicated as such. Recognition needs to also be given to the fact that this places a greater burden on the Secretariat because of the need to rapidly develop text.</p>	<p>continued expansion of the CBD and the COP agenda. It would be unrealistic to expect that the necessary level of intersessional work would be achieved without SBSTTA undertaking a level of preparation for COP.</p>	<p>However it is important that these panel sessions stay focused on the SBSTTA agenda, and do not gradually become platforms for organizations and opportunities to promote views, projects and specific interests.</p>	<p>within the Plenary on delivering on the SBSTTA mandate and the requests made by COP; and (b) plenary is not necessarily the most effective place for discussing country-specific examples and experiences</p>	
<p>WWF</p>	<p>It depends a lot on the weight of the meeting agenda. If possible Plenary is preferable than working groups, but a long list of items may require the use of working groups. Meetings held in Plenary add transparency to the process and enable the full participation of Parties small delegations. However they are not so productive, as the format is not always the most adequate for scientific and technical discussions. Also Plenary is not so friendly to NGOs, IGOs, ILCs, Academia, ... whose opinions can be very relevant for scientific and technical matters. There are occasions when the Plenary is the best set, but not always and often small groups are best suited for the purpose. Generally groups open to</p>	<p>As CBD is a Party driven process it is very important for Parties to have the ownership of the recommendations. In a certain way draft recommendations may drive and influence Parties recommendations, not a desirable thing. But they add speed to the process, turning it much more productive. In what concerns conclusions, Parties are still learning to develop them, as the temptation to negotiate word by word is often too strong. SBSTTA Bureau should reflect on the process of conclusions development.</p>	<p>The role of SBSTTA is not purely scientific and technical and the right balance should be found. However SBSTTA must not be a pre-COP, an observed tendency in the past. It is important that SBSTTA finds how it can maximize its contribution to CBD, especially now that IPBES is established.</p>	<p>Presentations must be adequately related with the following session, show other perspectives, and, preferably, encompass several aspects of the issue. The use of visual aids should be reinforced.</p>	<p>For the majority of topics country-specific examples and experiences are better transmitted, shared and discussed in smaller sets</p>	<p>Both aspects are important.</p>

	all are preferable than closed ones.				
Responses to questions in section IV –Open questions					
Country/ Organization	Which additional changes to the format of SBSTTA would allow SBSTTA to more effectively provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, other bodies under the Convention with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention?	How could SBSTTA implement its mandate to prepare scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention	Please provide any views on the respective roles, complementarities, particularities and overlaps between SBSTTA and WG8J as well as between SBSTTA and WGRI.	Any other comments	
Australia	Intersessional groups could prepare material on science and technical issues from SBSTTA for delivery to the COP.	<p>We note that a fundamental issue with SBSTTA's ability to implement its mandate in relation to CBD Article 25.2(b) is the wording of the text, which results in ambiguity in relation to whether scientific and technical assessments are to be prepared on the effectiveness of measures or on the effects of measures.</p> <p>There may be value in SBSSTA reviewing its outstanding work program with a view of winding up work items which are no longer relevant. The resultant work program could be prioritized, and tighter governance and reporting arrangements established. This would allow for better tracking of the progress of current items on the work programs and enable due consideration of the implications of including new work tasks to the existing work program.</p>		We found the revised format for SBSTTA 17 to be innovative in its approach and a useful model to enhance discussion on scientific and policy aspects of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Strategic Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We view this to be a constructive step forward for the subsidiary body to enable it to discuss a broad range of science-policy issues relevant to the Convention in a flexible manner and believe this format, with some refinement, could work well for future meetings of the SBSTTA.	
Colombia	<p>Sería importante generar espacios que permitan definir por metas, qué dificultades o limitantes y aciertos se han generado, y que en los informes sean muy concretos de manera que puedan analizarse ágilmente, para definir apoyos o necesidades específicas de cooperación entre las Partes.</p> <p>Debe fomentarse la recepción de documentos conceptuales de las partes sobre los temas a ser revisados por el SBSTTA y que sean requeridos según el mandato que la COP y otros órganos del Convenio.</p>	<p>Definir indicadores concretos que complementen la información que entregan las Partes.</p> <p>El SBSTTA debe ser generar, entre periodo de sesiones, documentos de evaluación científica y asesoramiento técnico que se requieran, basados en los aportes de los países, expertos y en talleres.</p> <p>El SBSTTA debe definir los criterios de contenido y recepción de documentos de evaluación y respetar las diferentes visiones presentadas</p>			

	<p>La Secretaría debería mantener en la página Web y enviado a través de notificación un listado de temas y fechas para recepción de comentarios entre periodo de sesiones y sobre esa base construir documentos propositivos concisos. De esta manera, las reuniones del SBSTTA no deben alargarse en discusiones de negociación pre – COP sino que deben esta centradas en el debate científico y técnico que sirva de base a las recomendaciones que se tomen.</p>			
Ecuador	<p>The SBSTTA meeting should be about technical and scientific issues.</p>	<p>Delegates to SBSTTA meetings should be technical and scientific professionals.</p>	<p>Ecuador considers SBSTTA, WGRI and WG8j meetings are complementary. However it is necessary that these meetings should be separated because the delegates don't have the same knowledge and they show different levels of decisions</p>	<p>Ecuador consider necessary to establish on line workshops in order to discuss some issues before the meetings</p>
Estonia	<p>Draft decision should be prepared advanced, so that on meeting we could focus on problematic aspects. These aspects could be covered if possible also on presentation to give a better scientific view about background of the issue. I also think that country experiences about how to meet targets should rather stay into national rappers, new CHM system, GBO and so on and not so much covered on SBSTTA.</p>	<p>Not able to provide good suggestion for improvement.</p>		
Ethiopia	<p>It is very reasonable and acceptable using a format that fits to the future SBSTTA meeting issues/agenda. It depends on what SBSTTA should deliver</p>	<p>Periodical survey has to be carried out on scientific and technical aspects in selected and representative areas or countries to address all the issues concerning SBSTTA mandate. This will help SBSTTA to prepare themes for discussion and resolution. The survey is a sort of monitoring and evaluation on implementation of SBSTTA's resolutions and recommendations. Scientific and technical assessments should be real, acceptable and simple to realize/implement with all parties and observers. Where as in case of WGRI, there is a gap of communication. WGRI meetings should indorse its evaluation review</p>	<p>The working Group on article 8J and related provisions addresses one of the key elements incorporated in all the programmes of works under convention. So that, the working group outcomes are very important inputs for SBSTTA meetings. There is no overlap in this regard.</p>	<p>Panel discussions on SBSTTA meetings should focus on presentations. Reflections and statements of parities and observers on other issues should be addressed in a separate session.</p>

		to SBSTTA to prepare recommendations on how to implement Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity targets and capacity building supports. So that, WGRJ meetings should be organized before SBSTTA meetings, as it is for WG8J, to give its feedback to SBSTTA.		
European Commission	The selection of plenary presentations is crucial and very sensitive and need to balance credibility, relevance and legitimacy. This should be discussed in the SBSTTA Bureau	This task should be seen in close collaboration with the work undertaken by IPBES. While IPBES does not directly assess the effectiveness of measures, IPBES work/assessments are the basis for the assessment of the effectiveness of measures.		SBSTTA does not need adjustment (any more) because now there is IPBES.
Japan	Other environmental agreement bodies also have similar experiences how to precede the meeting in more efficient and appropriate manner including changing the format of the meeting. Listing other examples and applying best practices would be a useful approach.			Given the fact that IPBES started up its function as a scientific body to make assessments as an independent body, it would not be practical to perceive SBSTTA as a standalone forum any more, and more important thing is to enhance functions of SBSTTA and IPBES to functions more collectively. In existing arrangements SBSTTA is held every year. SBSTTA held upcoming June is necessary in terms of mid-term review of Aichi targets, however, we should consider to hold SBSTTA every once every two years if there is no significant and urgent agenda.
Mali	Je crois bon d'attendre d'évaluer les changements appréciés de la 17 eme session ; ensuite, on verra	Les partis doivent faire rapport au bureau qui précise les mesures à traiter	Les chevauchements entre ces 2 organes sont plus du fait des confusions au cours des réunions. Les rôles sont apparemment clairs. Il faut plutôt veiller à leur respect.	La nouvelle vision du SBSTTA en termes de débats en plénière axés sur l'angle scientifique des mesures est à saluer. Il faut y persévérer. La langue ne doit pas être une barrière de participation aux débats (dominés par l'anglais). Il faut veiller à la traduction permanente pour respecter le statut de toutes les parties à la convention. FELICITATIONS AU BUREAU !
Mexico	Sugerimos que el Bureau del SBSTTA participe de manera más activa en la revisión y den mayor orientación a la Secretaría en la elaboración de los documentos de trabajo, así como de promoción del	Estableciendo un marco conceptual, con indicadores, que permita y facilite que las partes puedan aportar información para fundamentar esas evaluaciones con información de primera mano, apoyándose en el	Con ambos grupos el SBSTTA debe tener una colaboración bidireccional muy clara, respetando sus competencias. SBSTTA-WGRJ. Evitar duplicar en el	La Agenda del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica es muy amplia, lo que lleva a una dispersión y atomización de esfuerzos. Por ello, no se deben incluir más temas, a menos que sea absolutamente necesario y por el

	<p>proceso de peer-review. A fin de presentar el tema, informar, abrir debates, lograr conclusiones y reportar a la COP en respuesta a su solicitud.</p>	<p>Bureau, así como en AHTEGs y estableciendo alianzas estratégicas con otros grupos y tratados calificados como IPBES, para evitar duplicaciones.</p>	<p>proceso de redactar Decisiones, limitándose a los temas técnicos y científicos, y dejando lo económico y político al WGRI.</p> <p>SBSTTA-8J. Una vez que WG8J logre definir un formato claro de operación que permita la sistematización del conocimiento tradicional que promueva la conservación y uso sustentable de la Biodiversidad y el plan Estratégico, esperamos una mayor colaboración con el SBSTTA para contribuir junto con los elementos técnicos, tecnológicos y científicos a la implementación del Plan Estratégico.</p>	<p>contrario, se pudieran integrar agendas o eliminar aquellos que se considere han sido atendidos satisfactoriamente o perdido vigencia. La depuración de decisiones puede ayudar en esta tarea, así como la homologación o fusión de los programas de trabajo temáticos que después de revisiones, son muy similares en su estructura.</p>
<p>Nepal</p>	<p>In addition to the changes introduced to the format of SBSTTA17, we consider participatory and interactive approaches in agenda setting, identification of themes for panel discussion and presentation may bring efficiency and effectiveness. Taking into account the degree of responses by parties to SBSTTA related notifications, it has become evident to review current approaches to seek parties response. Secretariat may have to facilitate proactively on this issue.</p>		<p>We have realized that considerable level of overlaps between SBSTTA and WG8J as well as between SBSTTA and WGRI are emerging. It is important to ensure that such overlaps are minimized and at the same time enhancing complementary among these bodies.</p>	
<p>New Zealand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The format of SBSTTA17 was a step in the right direction in terms of addressing concerns raised in the past that the Body's technical and scientific functions were being overwhelmed by political interests. The SBSTTA should not simply deliberate scientific ideas, and its role is not to generate science: the mandate is to provide implementation advice to the COP (that can also serve as solid advice to policy makers). SBSTTA-17 may have 'swung too far' away from the need for some political discussion, but it provided a glimpse of what balance might be achieved given some tweaks to the system. • These tweaks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Circulation by the Secretariat of a 2-year workplan soon after each COP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In our view, some preliminary work would be helpful in understanding how SBSTTA could better fulfill this element of its mandate. One piece of work might be an exercise to identify relevant measures – are these domestic or international measures? In addition, the range of measures would have to be narrowed down to those that were taken as a result of CBD processes. For example, is there an understanding of what uptake there has been of CBD products (e.g. the technical series publications)? Do we know how Parties have used them, whether or not they have applied some of the policy options outlined in some of the publications, etc. This would be useful analysis and could underpin the effects of measures taken. There may 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mandate and status of each of the subsidiary bodies must be clear to all (Parties and Secretariat). SBSTTA is established through the Convention, and is a standing body. WG8J and WGRI have been established through decisions of the COP. All bodies therefore report to the COP, although their status differs under the Convention. A method to clarify this might be to map it out (along with how the bodies interact and how they are differentiated). • WGRI has been perceived by some to be a 'standing committee' of the CBD, but without clear parameters around representation and mandate, this affords misplaced legitimacy around some of its processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regular observation about the CBD governance structure is the absence of a body that transacts administrative and strategic business between COPs to ensure that momentum is maintained between COPs in support of implementation. Other MEAs have Standing Committees which operate as a 'Preparatory Conference' for the COPs. • In some ways, WGRI performs this function. However, the reality is that it does not have the mandate to do so (as a Working Group) due to issues associated with representation. Standing Committees of other MEAs have been established via decisions of COPs: it may be possible and indeed advisable for the CBD COP to consider formally establishing a Standing Committee via COP decision, which would take on the functions of WGRI, as well as other

	<p>that indicates the inter-sessional work coming out of the COP decisions, including expected inputs from Parties. Given the broad reach of the CBD's remit, this is essential to ensure nothing 'falls through the cracks' and that both the Parties and the Secretariat are as organized as possible. The workplan could show when specific inputs would be requested (essentially a notification schedule) and how they fit into the inter-sessional meeting timeline (WGRIs, SBSTTAs, etc.). This will help provide Parties with a clear indication of the process to be taken that will result in technical and scientific advice, and will assist Parties to plan their engagement.</p> <p>-For planned panel sessions, the Secretariat could circulate in advance documents outlining the current state of technical/scientific advice available to Parties in the particular topic area. This would provide baseline information of what is already known, and the panel sessions (and subsequent discussion) could then focus on what is still needed. This would also ensure there is a strong link between CBD tools, CBD priorities areas (e.g. Strategic Goals), and the panel sessions.</p> <p>-Establish a system whereby Chairs of the sessions take clear ownership of session outcomes (e.g. recommendations/conclusions), and – with support of the Secretariat – take all steps to achieve agreement (e.g. producing zero drafts, undertaking consultations, etc.).</p>	<p>be precedent in other MEAs (biodiversity and others) that could serve as a methodological template for this type of work.</p>		<p>related administrative and strategic matters. Any consideration of this possibility should be conducted in a wider review of the CBD's architecture to ensure that all the moving pieces are delivering on their mandates and interacting successfully together to support the successful implementation of the Convention.</p>
<p>Norway</p>	<p>The first question here is "advice on what"? Clarification towards WGRI, NBSAP-workshops, regional capacity building workshops would be needed, but in our view the old (pre sbstta17 format) has served us quite well.</p> <p>We would assume that the secretariat, based on the NR5, can identify some measures which have a potential for further improvement and a broader coverage and bring this to</p>	<p>In our view this is clearly given in Art 25.2.b, and under the authority of and in accordance with guidelines laid down by the COP, and upon its request. COP has to specify the mandate and the guidelines for such assessments.</p> <p>The establishment of IPBES gives the CBD an additional source of scientific and technical knowledge and advice, and in particular we welcome the</p>	<p>(See also the submission on effectiveness) With the current work sharing it would be useful with some joint bureau-meetings to make sure that all relevant issues are addressed.</p> <p>Having learned a bit on the elements in the Pyeongchang Roadmap the links between SBSTTA and WGRI is not very straight forward. We might want to suggest that the secretariat</p>	

	<p>the attention of the parties. Being aware that the CBD earlier has identified some 70 policy relevant tools and measures we would recommend that measures relevant for only a few Aichi targets is assessed as a first priority. We stand ready to discuss this further.</p> <p>Having in mind the importance of the Strategic Plan, and the broad approach from this plan as well as the challenges in implementing this plan, we do believe that the COP might request the SBSTTA to address subsets (one Goal or some targets) in order to prepare optimal outcome. (we are aware of COP XI/13)</p>	<p>response to the invitation given in decision COPXI/2 para 28 from the IPBES plenary.</p> <p>We are also looking forward to other assessments from IPBES which most probably will serve the need for knowledge to improve implementation and further development under the CBD. In our view SBSTTA would need to develop advice (and draft recommendations) based on these reports as developments in biodiversity-policy (COP decisions) are a CBD responsibility (and cannot be handed over to the IPBES).</p>	<p>prepares some information on how the bodies under the CBD best would fit this roadmap. We do believe that an integrated approach would be most useful. Work linked to WGRI on resource mobilization, and in particular innovative financial mechanisms might benefit from being closer to the actual implementation of specific Aichi targets.</p>	
<p>Republic of Korea</p>				<p>Unlike the former SBSTTA meetings that proceeded with keynote speeches, the programme of SBSTTA-17 consisted of thematic panel discussions and introductory discussions without plenary sessions</p> <p>The new program for the meeting was considered to have been effective in general, as it solve some problems concerning data collection which was experienced during the 2013 Trondheim Conference, Furthermore, it also allowed the parties to exchange their views and discuss on the requirements to achieve the Aichi Targets and the Strategic Plan. The advantages and disadvantages are outlined as the following:</p> <p>The advantages are: first each Party was allowed to have intensive discussion on one topic and shared experiences; second the discussion was focused on scientific and technical aspects rather than political or policy concerns; this free and open discussions resulted in improved understanding among the Parties through various presentations by different speakers.</p> <p>As for disadvantages they are: first, time for Q&A session was no sufficient, second in-depth discussion was hard to place since too many presentations on different themes were made in a limited time; third, rather than reporting on best</p>

				practices, parties need to share on the difficulties they faced during the implementation.
Sudan	The format of SBSTTA 17 was satisfying. The information on panel discussion should be provided in advance to allow for active participation and discussion.		The mandate and the role of SBSTTA should be different from other two groups. SBSTTA should concentrate on scientific work only (which could help in the implementation of the convention) rather than the negotiation on implementation and political issues	
United Kingdom	<p>We are not convinced that the format adopted for SBSTTA 17 is the most effective format going forward for addressing the issues assigned to SBSTTA by CoP. Whilst open discussions are welcome, sufficient focus is needed in the meeting documentation to enable Parties to properly prepare in advance.</p> <p>Exchanges of information can be useful, but are often not sufficiently focused to produce meaningful, evidence-based recommendations to CoP. Again, this could be addressed by better preparation of more focused meeting documentation. Panel presentations can similarly be useful in explaining draft recommendations, but these need to be focused on material made available in advance of the meetings to enable Parties to prepare for discussion. In the absence of panel discussion leading to meaningful recommendations, such presentations would be better as side events. A range of other informal formats for exchange of information could be more effective, but they should not be part of the formal proceedings of SBSTTA meetings.</p> <p>Subject to available resources, the Secretariat should seek to provide SBSTTA with comprehensive and robust reviews of evidence on which to base its advice. SBSTTA should seek to maximize the benefits from such evidence reviews undertaken in other fora (e.g. IPBES, FAO) by both inputting to the scoping of those</p>	SBSTTA may wish to establish a rolling programme of assessments of effects of different types of measures. The starting point would be a review of measures reported in 5th National Reports to compile a prioritized list of measures to be included in the rolling review programme. SBSTTA would also consider opportunities offered by other assessment processes (such as those undertaken by IPBES) and propose a timetable for the rolling programme. For each measure included in the rolling programme, the Secretariat would compile relevant information and expert inputs for review by SBSTTA. SBSTTA may also develop guidance for Parties, based on current best practice, for evaluation of measures taken (policies, programmes, projects etc). In the longer term this guidance would improve the information available to undertake future assessments of effectiveness.	<p>Duplication between subsidiary bodies should be avoided where possible to allow for the most efficient conduct of business.</p> <p>WG8J is the appropriate place to deal with matters related to Article 8(j), although clearly these need to be taken into account in other relevant discussions, meaning that SBSTTA and WGRI need to be informed of the recommendations made to COP by WG8J meetings. There needs to be particular close coordination where WG8J are specifically tasked in undertaking work within a broader framework being developed by SBSTTA (e.g. indicators).</p> <p>SBSTTA and WGRI both have the role to prepare COP and ensure that COP is able to take effective decisions. SBSTTA's focus should be on those elements of the workplan with a more scientific, technical or technological element, but there should be recognition that this will inevitably require a degree of policy input and that items requiring a policy steer cannot go to COP as having already been agreed.</p>	<p>Our strong preference would be not to repeat the format adopted at SBSTTA 17. We did not find this format effective for dealing with the heavy workload of SBSTTA and the formulation of thoroughly considered, evidence-based recommendations for CoP and believe this view to be substantiated by the need to add extra days to SBSTTA 18 to ensure that all business assigned to SBSTTA by CoP is properly dealt with.</p> <p>As described above, subject to available resources, more effort should be given to collation of evidence, consultation and informal expert meetings, in the preparation of SBSTTA meetings, rather than attempting to do this within the SBSTTA meeting itself.</p>

	reviews, as appropriate, and making full use of their outputs.			
Birdlife	Comments to these covered on previous sessions.			
DIVERSITAS	Giving room to parties to share their experiences through for example information related to the topics discussed posted on the website of the meeting, or through information expert meetings.	Strong and active collaborating with IPBES, especially in preparing requests for IPBES, and in getting CBD Parties to provide relevant information for the IPBES assessments. Assessment process that tracks country's progress towards implementation.		
SEARICE		Explore synergies with community-based monitoring and information systems. Local people should be involved in these assessments. This method also is likely to address goal A, as people take ownership and become more aware and appreciative of biodiversity.	SBSTTA & WG8J has clear overlap in relation to Target 18 discussion under SBSTTA. However, this overlap is welcome as traditional knowledge should play a bigger part in recommendations from SBSTTA for all targets. Especially for targets B-D, ILC participation in SBSTTA should be increased, or at least consulted by Parties. Areas of work where TK can contribute should be identified.	
UNEP-WCMC	The easiest changes to make are those that can be addressed within the existing arrangements. Efforts could be made to ensure that side events are far more focused on the agenda, or that the side event time is used for other meetings. For example, some of the sharing of national experience could have been done far more effectively in side events, or in thematic or sub-regional 'roundtables' held during lunchtimes or early evening	SBSTTA needs to carefully consider how it wants to relate to assessment processes and global observing systems, make explicit requests, and develop strategic relationships. In part it is already doing this, but more strategic and proactive approaches might be developed. It then needs to draw on these and repackage their outputs in the context of the convention and its implementation as a basis for advising COP. The first consideration for SBSTTA should always be to build on and draw on what already exists	As we see it the distinction between SBSTTA and WGRI is very clear, and both are necessary parts of the process. We are less familiar with WG8J but wonder whether the meeting as currently structured is the most effective means of ensuring implementation of Article 8j and related provisions.	
WWF	The format should be more focused on providing analysis and evidence from Parties to discuss and strategize on technical and scientific needs. It would be important to know where Parties stand in terms of the implementation of the Aichi Targets.	SBSTTA should better use scientific evidence that is already available or should be made available through research on how the implementation of the Aichi Targets is progressing. Without such information, in addition to country reports and case studies, SBSTTA will not get a full picture to discuss further needs of scientific and technical means to better facilitate Aichi target implementation.	SBSTTA may provide better scientific evidence to support and facilitate the discussion in WGRI regarding implementation of the targets	

Annex III

SURVEY TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF SBSTTA IN LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES OF SBSTTA 17

The agenda for SBSTTA 17 was designed to promote scientific and technical discussions and exchanges, thereby enabling an examination and exchange of experiences, from a scientific and technical perspective, of the use of tools and guidance for supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In its recommendation XVII/1, the Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to conduct an evaluation of the approach and format used in the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA, as part of his work in response to paragraph 2 of decision XI/10 on improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its Protocols, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting. A first review document, including the results of the survey conducted at the end of SBSTTA 17, has been made available on the website of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

To enable a more comprehensive evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of the approach taken during SBSTTA 17, and in order to guide the planning for future meetings of SBSTTA, Parties and observer organizations are invited to respond to the questions below.

Response is on behalf of _____ (Party or observer organization to the Convention)
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I. GENERAL: Please indicate the degree of your Party's/organization's agreement with the following statements (A or B)						
Statement A						Statement B
The format of meetings needs to be adjusted so that SBSTTA can effectively respond to all aspects of its mandate.	Strongly agree with A ○	Agree with A ○	Neutral ○	Agree with B ○	Strongly agree with B ○	The format used before SBSTTA 17 is sufficient for SBSTTA to effectively respond to all aspects of its mandate.
The format of meetings needs to be adjusted so that SBSTTA can better provide guidance on scientific and technical aspects related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	Strongly agree with A ○	Agree with A ○	Neutral ○	Agree with B ○	Strongly agree with B ○	The format used before SBSTTA 17 is sufficient for SBSTTA to provide guidance on scientific and technical aspects related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

II. ELEMENTS OF THE SBSTTA 17 FORMAT: Please indicate your Party's/organization's satisfaction with the use of the following elements at SBSTTA 17						
						Please provide comments on your choice:
Meetings held in plenary	Highly satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Neutral <input type="radio"/>	Dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	Highly dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	
Conclusions and recommendations developed entirely by Parties	Highly satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Neutral <input type="radio"/>	Dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	Highly dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	
Overall focus on scientific and technical advice	Highly satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Neutral <input type="radio"/>	Dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	Highly dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	
Presentations and panel discussions to introduce sessions	Highly satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Neutral <input type="radio"/>	Dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	Highly dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	
Opportunity for Parties to discuss in plenary their country-specific examples and experiences	Highly satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Satisfied <input type="radio"/>	Neutral <input type="radio"/>	Dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	Highly dissatisfied <input type="radio"/>	

III. ELEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Please indicate your Party's / organizations preferences with regard to future meetings of SBSTTA (A or B)						
At future meetings of SBSTTA, my Party / organization would like to see the following elements (where appropriate for the respective meeting agenda):						
Element A					Element B	
Meetings held in plenary (with contact groups where necessary)	All A	Mostly A	A+B	Mostly B	All B	Meetings held in working groups (with contact groups where necessary)
	<input type="radio"/>					
Comments:						
Conclusions and recommendations developed entirely by Parties	All A	Mostly A	A+B	Mostly B	All B	Secretariat to provide comprehensive draft outcomes
	<input type="radio"/>					
Comments:						
Overall focus on scientific and technical advice	All A	Mostly A	A+B	Mostly B	All B	Overall focus on preparing recommendations for COP, including policy guidance
	<input type="radio"/>					
Comments:						

III. ELEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Please indicate your Party's / organizations preferences with regard to future meetings of SBSTTA (A or B)						
At future meetings of SBSTTA, my Party / organization would like to see the following elements (where appropriate for the respective meeting agenda):						
Element A						Element B
Presentations and panel discussions to introduce most sessions, where relevant	All A <input type="radio"/>	Mostly A <input type="radio"/>	A+B <input type="radio"/>	Mostly B <input type="radio"/>	All B <input type="radio"/>	No presentations and panel discussions
Comments:						
Time in plenary for Parties to discuss their country-specific examples and experiences	All A <input type="radio"/>	Mostly A <input type="radio"/>	A+B <input type="radio"/>	Mostly B <input type="radio"/>	All B <input type="radio"/>	Time in plenary for Parties to make statements and negotiate text only
Comments:						
Presentations and panel discussions, where held, should focus on scientific information related to the issues under discussion	All A <input type="radio"/>	Mostly A <input type="radio"/>	A+B <input type="radio"/>	Mostly B <input type="radio"/>	All B <input type="radio"/>	Presentations and panel discussions, where held, should focus on practical, implementation-related information on the issues under discussion

IV: OPEN QUESTIONS: Please provide comments/suggestions on the following:	
<p>In recommendation XVII/1, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to develop options for improving the efficiency of the structures and processes under the Convention. Please provide any suggestions in light of your experience at SBSTTA-17.</p>	
<p>Which additional changes to the format of SBSTTA would allow SBSTTA to more effectively provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, other bodies under the Convention with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention?</p>	
<p>How could SBSTTA implement its mandate to prepare scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention</p>	
<p>Please provide any views on the respective roles, complementarities, particularities and overlaps between SBSTTA and WG8J as well as between SBSTTA and WGRI.</p>	
<p>Any other comments</p>	