



Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat

SCBD/STTM/MgtA/VA/47416

16 February 2005

NOTIFICATION

Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Adaptation to Climate Change Helsinki – Finland – Tentatively scheduled for September 2005

Sir/Madam,

In paragraph 14 of decision VII/15, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), as the next stage of its work on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, to develop for consideration of the Conference of the Parties advice or guidance for promoting synergy among activities to address climate change at the national, regional and international level where appropriate, including activities to combat desertification and land degradation, and activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Pursuant to this request and at its tenth meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 11 February 2005, SBSTTA decided in its recommendation X/13, annexed to the present notification, to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG). In particular, SBSTTA recognized that the focus of the AHTEG should be on adaptation to climate change. The AHTEG shall complete its work in time for the eleventh meeting of SBSTTA, scheduled for December 2005, and is expected to meet tentatively in September 2005 in Helsinki, Finland.

I hereby invite your Government to submit the name of an expert who may be called upon to participate in the AHTEG, together with a description of his/her expertise that is strictly related to the mandate of the Group as specified in the terms of reference contained in the attached SBSTTA recommendation X/13. **Nominations should be received no later than 15 April 2005.** Once the AHTEG members are selected, it is expected that their work will start by electronic means, coordinated through the Secretariat, before meeting face-to-face.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA focal points



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SBSTTA recommendation X/13.
Climate change: terms of reference of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling paragraph 14 of decision VII/15, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as the next stage of its work on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change to develop for consideration of the Conference of the Parties advice or guidance for promoting synergy among activities to address climate change at the national, regional and international level where appropriate, including activities to combat desertification and land degradation, and activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Also recalling paragraph 15 of decision VII/15, inviting the conferences of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Joint Liaison Group, as appropriate, in developing guidance to Parties in implementing activities that are mutually supportive of the objectives of the three Rio conventions at the local, subnational and national levels,

Recognizing that the Conference of the Parties, in its decision VII/30 on the Strategic Plan, decided to develop a framework to enhance the evaluation of achievements and progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, that includes activities aimed at maintaining and enhancing resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change,

Recognizing also that the report *Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change: Advice on the Integration of Biodiversity Considerations into the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol* (CBD Technical Series No. 10) focuses on the links to, and impacts on, biodiversity in relation to mitigation options but assesses, to a lesser extent, the integration of, and impacts on, biodiversity into adaptation activities,

Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change on the basis of the following terms of reference in order to start addressing decision VII/15:

1. Drawing on the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change (CBD Technical Series no. 10) ^{1/} and other relevant documents including the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, and guided by relevant outcomes from the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and on other material as appropriate, and by decisions VII/15 on biodiversity and climate change and VII/26 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will:

(a) Undertake a supplementary assessment on the integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of adaptation activities to climate change at the local, subnational, national, subregional, regional, and international levels, whenever appropriate drawing on case-studies and seeking also to identify and avoid duplication in activities between the Rio conventions. In particular, the assessment shall contemplate:

(i) The identification of the major biological factors that contribute to ecosystem resilience under the current and projected impacts of climate change, and the identification of particular adaptation activities carried out under the current

^{1/} <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf>

thematic areas of the Convention: agricultural biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, and island biodiversity;

- (ii) The potential consequences for biodiversity of those particular adaptation activities, taking into account, but not limited to, technical and technological interventions, highlighting gaps in current scientific knowledge and identifying research needs; and
- (iii) The role of biodiversity as an adaptation element by itself;

(b) Based on existing work, including the information contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change (CBD Technical Series No. 10) and the above supplementary assessment, as well as other relevant sources referred to in the chapeau to the present paragraph, prepare advice or guidance under the thematic areas of the Convention, for use at local, national, regional and international level as appropriate, for planning and/or implementing activities to address adaptation to climate change and that interlink across climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and land degradation and desertification. The draft advice or guidance may include relevant tools and technologies, including those under the Convention, and take into account traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities, on the integration of biodiversity considerations in the design, implementation, and monitoring of projects aimed at addressing climate change.

Duration of work

The work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group should be initiated as soon as possible and completed on time for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eleventh meeting.

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