



PRESS RELEASE

Science body of biodiversity convention paves way for further implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Montreal, 9 November 2015 – Governments at an international biodiversity science meeting have agreed on a set of actions for the further implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Many of these actions adopted at the nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 19), held from 2 to 5 November 2015 in Montreal, Canada, will be considered by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its thirteenth meeting, being held in December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.

SBSTTA is a subsidiary body of COP and reports regularly to COP on all aspects of its work. Multidisciplinary and open to participation by all Parties, SBSTTA comprises government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise. Its functions include: providing assessments of the status of biodiversity; providing assessments of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and responding to questions that COP may put to the body.

As part of its agenda, SBSTTA 19 aimed to advance the coherence of different policies through mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use across the work of sectors, such as agriculture, forests and fisheries, as well as other sectors that can negatively impact species and ecosystems, including tourism, planning, infrastructure, mining and energy.

SBSTTA 19 also considered the relationship between health and biodiversity and its implications for the implementation of the Convention, as well as for broader questions regarding sustainable development. Delegates looked at the highlights and implications of the *State of Knowledge Review: Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health*, a report co-launched by the World Health Organization and the CBD Secretariat earlier this year, and recommended further work, including a research programme.

SBSTTA 19 further examined its relationship with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and recommended actions aimed at increasing cooperation, reducing duplication of efforts and making the most of the scientific information available by both bodies.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



SBSTTA 19 also:

- Recommended the preparation of key elements for a short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration
- Discussed tools to assess policy effectiveness, particularly at the national level
- Took note of the updated report on climate-related geoengineering in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Recognized the role of forest related international organisations in supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Many Parties, in their comments, noted the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Convention. This was also reflected in several recommendations.

SBSTTA will hold its 20th meeting in May of 2016, back-to-back with the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Notes to Editors

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in December 1993. The Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 68 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int
