



PRESS RELEASE

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity's science body meets to lay groundwork for next year's critical UN Biodiversity Conference

- *Governments to propose themes for goals and targets of post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
- *Delegates to review new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change.*
- *Discussions also focusing on links between nature and culture in the post-2020 biodiversity framework, sustainable wildlife management, technical and scientific cooperation, and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.*

25 November 2019 – Over the next five days, the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) body on science will meet to lay the groundwork for negotiations to prepare the next year's UN Biodiversity Conference¹ in Kunming, China and achieve an ambitious and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Some 500 delegates representing 118 countries are expected to convene in Montreal for the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-23), being held from 25-29 November. SBSTTA is one of the CBD's two permanent subsidiary bodies, and recommendations made by the body are suggestions for decisions to be adopted at the biennial meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

"This is a critical time for biodiversity and for the CBD," said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Officer in Charge of the CBD. "As noted by the recently released *Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), significant declines in biodiversity are occurring at all levels, from genes and species to ecosystems."

"There is no question that we have urgent challenges before us, but we also have available solutions. It is not too late to slow, halt and eventually reverse the alarming trends in the decline of biodiversity. But to do that, we need to scale-up solutions for conservation and restoration of biodiversity at all levels; keep climate change close to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, take effective steps to address all pressures driving biodiversity loss, including invasive species, pollution and unsustainable exploitation of

¹ Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing; Kunming, China, October 2020.



biodiversity, transforming the way food is produced and consumed, as well as transforming production and consumption of other goods and services affecting biodiversity for example in forestry, energy and provision of fresh water.”

Seven substantive agenda items are up for discussion at SBSTTA-23:

- **Informing the Scientific and Technical Evidence Base for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:** Delegates will provide guidance on specific goals, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) targets, indicators, baselines and monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- **Biodiversity and Climate Change:** Parties will review a summary of the main findings from the review of new scientific and technical information on biodiversity and climate change and of its implications for the work of the Convention.
- **Possible Elements of Work on the Links Between Nature and Culture in the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework:** Parties will consider options for possible elements of work aimed at a reconciliation of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- **Sustainable Wildlife Management:** Parties will consider areas of sustainable wild meat use that might require complementary guidance and to explore ways to apply such guidance to geographical areas beyond tropical zone and will further evaluate multidisciplinary approaches to the use of and trade in wildlife.
- **Technical and Scientific Cooperation:** Parties will consider draft elements of a strategy to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and proposals for a process to review and renew various technical and scientific cooperation programmes under the Convention.
- **Results of The Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean:** The Subsidiary Body will consider a summary report on the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the North-East Atlantic Ocean.
- **New and emerging issues:** Parties will review submissions of proposals for new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

In less than one year, the 196 Parties to the CBD will adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, rooted in nature-based solutions. Development of the framework is based on an open and transparent consultative process, engaging all Parties and stakeholders in a meaningful and integrated manner. As requested by Parties, the process is informed by best available science and evidence base learning also from relevant global and other assessments.

This milestone global agreement will offer an unparalleled opportunity to advance progress on the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity, while strengthening interlinkages between the biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development agendas.

The achievement of new global biodiversity goals and targets will generate multiple benefits for the wellbeing of the society contributing solutions to the most important challenges set out in the development agenda towards a life living in harmony with nature.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the intergovernmental body responsible for providing scientific, technical and technological advice related to the implementation of

the Convention, plays a key role in assessing the current status of the world's biodiversity, identifying solutions and in bringing emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the attention of the global community.

Meeting documents: www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-23

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering 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, 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 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, 172 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 123 Parties.

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