



PRESS RELEASE

New dates and venue announced for two critical UN Biodiversity Convention meetings, dates for UN Biodiversity Conference 2020 to be adjusted

- *SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings rescheduled for August and September 2020 respectively.*
- *Meetings for key preparatory processes for the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference and the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under revision.*
- *Dates for UN Biodiversity Conference to be revised.*
- *Advice of WHO and national public health authorities to be followed to ensure safety.*

23 March 2020 – Two meetings of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity’s permanent subsidiary bodies, previously scheduled for May 2020, have tentatively been rescheduled for August and September 2020, respectively.

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) will now be held 25 to 30 August 2020; and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) will take place 1 to 6 September 2020. Both meetings will be held in Ottawa, Canada.

In addition, the workshop on the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) will be held on 23 August 2020, open to all participants of the SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings.

“The Secretariat and the Parties to the Convention take the health and safety of families seriously. These changes maintain the needs of public and personal health while also keeping the momentum towards negotiation of a post 2020 global biodiversity framework,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“In active consultation with the Parties, through the Bureau, and in coordination with the UN Environment Programme and all other UN system actors, we will continue to keep the situation under review.”

As a consequence of these changes, the dates for the third meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols will need to be adjusted. Alternative dates are presently being discussed with the host governments and the co-chairs for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Further updates will be provided in due course.

NOTES TO EDITORS



The **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice** plays a key role in assessing the current status of the world's biodiversity and in bringing emerging issues related to the conservation of biodiversity to the attention of the global community.

Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-24

The **Subsidiary Body on Implementation** has four areas of work: (a) review of progress in implementation; (b) strategic actions to enhance implementation; (c) strengthening means of implementation; and (d) operations of the Convention and the Protocols.

Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3): www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-03

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 124 Parties.

For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For media inquiries, please contact David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
