



## PRESS RELEASE

### Revised dates and venue announced for two critical UN Biodiversity Convention meetings

- *SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings rescheduled for Montreal in August 2020.*
- *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, UN and national public health authorities to be followed to ensure safety.*

**2 April 2020** – Two meetings of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) permanent subsidiary bodies originally scheduled for May 2020 and then rescheduled for August/September 2020 will now take place in August 2020.

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) will now be held 17-22 August 2020; and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3) will take place 24-29 August 2020. Both meetings will be held in Montreal, Canada.

In addition, the workshop on the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) will be held on 15 August 2020, open to all participants of the SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 meetings. The release date for the GBO-5 will be announced shortly.

These changes have been made necessary by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Secretariat 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 (COP-15) 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, in consultation with the COP Presidency and the co-chairs for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Further updates will be provided in due course.

In light of the COVID-19 situation and guidance received from the World Health Organization, the UN as well as the Canadian and Quebec Governments, starting 23 March 2020 until further notice, as part of our efforts to assist in containing the spread of the virus, the staff of the CBD Secretariat has been working remotely. Procedures have been put in place to ensure that the operations and work of the Secretariat continues uninterrupted.



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cbd.int). For media inquiries, please contact David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at [david.ainsworth@cbd.int](mailto:david.ainsworth@cbd.int); or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at [johan.hedlund@cbd.int](mailto:johan.hedlund@cbd.int).

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