



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Fifteenth meeting
Montreal, 7-11 November 2011
Item 3.3 of the provisional agenda*

**RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS FIFTEENTH MEETING**

XV/3. Draft Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative

I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF SBSTTA

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Emphasizes* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision X/2 of the Conference of the Parties, annex) provide the overall framework for the Convention towards 2020 and should guide the future work of all of the Convention's cross-cutting issues and thematic areas, and *acknowledges* the importance of the draft Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/5, annex) in this context;
2. *Welcomes* the draft Strategy in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (a) Invite Parties and observer institutions, bodies and organizations and indigenous and local communities, to provide further inputs to the draft Strategy;
 - (b) Revise the draft Strategy, taking into account the comments from Parties at the fifteenth meeting of the SBSTTA, additional submissions from Parties and observers, institutions, bodies and organizations and indigenous and local communities;
 - (c) Make the revised Strategy available for consideration and finalization by SBSTTA at its sixteenth meeting for subsequent submission to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

4. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eleventh meeting, adopts a decision along the following lines:

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/1/Rev.1.

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Emphasizes* that the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide the overall framework for the Convention towards 2020 and should guide the future work of all of the Convention's cross-cutting issues and thematic areas, and *acknowledges* the importance of the draft Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative in this context;
2. *Welcomes* the revised GTI Capacity-building Strategy in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;¹
3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to integrate, as appropriate, in a timely manner, the actions of the GTI capacity-building strategy in their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), noting that taxonomic capacity-building requires multidisciplinary participation, including participation of indigenous and local communities, as appropriate;
4. *Invites* taxonomic and other relevant organizations, including, *inter alia*, taxonomic networks, natural history museums and other scientific institutions and partners that contribute to the capacity-building strategy for the GTI to pay particular attention to the achievement of the outcome-oriented deliverables for the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI annexed to decision IX/22;
5. *Further invites* these organizations and Parties to make particular efforts to train, sustain, enhance and increase human resources for creating inventories, monitoring biodiversity and further taxonomic information, as well as to build and maintain publicly available information systems and facilities for biological collections subject to national legislation of Parties, as appropriate;
6. *Recognizing* the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of biodiversity, *encourages* collaboration between taxonomic and other institutions and organizations and application of new methodologies and techniques to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 19;
7. *Recognizes* the importance of increasing the scientific standing of taxonomic research, strengthening taxonomic expertise, in particular, on lesser studied or known groups, and that creating the demand for taxonomic information is an important step to respond to decision X/39 that, *inter alia*, encourages job opportunities and incentives for young taxonomists;
8. *Encourages* the scientific community to give more recognition to taxonomic publications;
9. *Requests* Parties to report on the effectiveness of their capacity-building efforts to support the implementation of the GTI through their fifth and sixth national reports to the Convention and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the progress of implementation of the GTI, based on the national reports received from Parties to the corresponding meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to organize and facilitate, as far as feasible in partnership with academic organizations, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations:
 - (a) Regional workshops to assist Parties and their GTI national focal points, and others CBD focal points and other stakeholders to use the GTI capacity-building strategy to integrate taxonomy in updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Partners in these workshops may include other relevant stakeholders such as indigenous and local communities;
 - (b) Workshops in collaboration with GTI national focal points and partners to provide practical tools to improve the taxonomic and related skills of human resources and to raise awareness of a wide range of stakeholders on the usefulness of taxonomic information in the context of the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;

¹ The document will be reviewed by the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

(c) The development, in collaboration with the GTI Coordination Mechanism and partners of a practical learning kit for the CBD and GTI national focal points to promote the GTI and facilitate their communication with all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities to strengthen the engagement of all relevant sectors and to support the actions of the GTI capacity-building strategy;

11. *Invites* Parties, academic institutions and relevant organizations to support long term training programmes, including internships, fellowships and under- and post-graduate trainings to improve taxonomic and related skills of human resources;

12. *Recognizing* that taxonomic research may involve the movement of genetic resources between countries and access to traditional knowledge, *emphasizes* the need for these activities to be undertaken in line with the provisions on access and benefit-sharing of the Convention and, where applicable, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefit Arising from Their Utilization, and subject to their domestic legislation or regulatory requirements;

13. *Notes* the importance of traditional taxonomic knowledge of indigenous and local communities in the context of the Global Taxonomy Initiative;

14. *Recognizing* the need for financial resources for capacity-building, including the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism, *urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, organizations and donors to provide adequate financial and technical support for Parties to carry out taxonomic projects and activities that prioritize the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

15. *Takes note* of the revised terms of reference for the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/5) as well as the questionnaires for taxonomic needs and capacity assessments (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/4), which will be helpful for setting priorities for taxonomic capacity-building in updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
