

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**Distr.
GENERALUNEP/CBD/SBSTTA-BUR/2015/1
17 January 2015

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Bonn, Germany, 11 and 15 January 2015

**MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON 11 AND 15 JANUARY 2015****INTRODUCTION**

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) took place in Bonn, Germany, at the World Conference Center Bonn, in the margins of the third meeting of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 3), on 11 January 2015. The meeting was attended by the Chair, eight other members of the Bureau, and a member of the Secretariat. One other member of the Bureau participated in the discussions on items 1 to 3 via telephone. A representative from the next COP Presidency and a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties attended the meeting as an observer. A further meeting to consider progress under IPBES 3 was held on Thursday, 15 January 2015. The list of participants is available in Annex I.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting on 11 January 2015 was opened at 1 p.m. The Chair of SBSTTA, Mr. Andrew Bignell, welcomed participants to the meeting and gave some opening remarks, noting the benefits of holding a face-to-face meeting early in the biennium to facilitate planning. Mr. David Cooper, SBSTTA Secretary, also welcomed the participants and expressed his thanks to Bureau members for making themselves available at this time and to the IPBES Secretariat for hosting the meeting.

3. The Bureau adopted the proposed agenda for the meeting.

ITEM 2. AGENDAS FOR SBSTTA 19 AND SBSTTA 20

4. The Bureau noted that SBSTTA 19 would be held within the period 1 to 7 November 2015 in conjunction with the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related articles (WG 8(j) 9)

and that SBSTTA 20 would be held within the period 25-30 April 2016, prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.¹

5. Mr. David Cooper introduced the documents for consideration under this agenda item, in particular the draft provisional agenda for SBSTTA 19 and a preliminary list of items for SBSTTA 20. More strategic issues arising from decision XII/1 were proposed to be addressed by SBSTTA 19. Items that require comprehensive preparations, sometimes including workshops, were proposed to be addressed at SBSTTA 20. He also drew attention to the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the parties to 2020 which would have a bearing on the work of SBSTTA during the biennium. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez presented relevant aspects of COP 13 from the perspective of the next COP Presidency.

6. The scientific and technical aspects of assessing progress towards implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity targets would also be addressed by SBSTTA 20, as the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will hold its first meeting following SBSTTA 20 and therefore will be able to directly draw upon the relevant conclusions by SBSTTA.

7. The Bureau considered the documents and agreed with the draft provisional agenda for SBSTTA 19, noting that there may be some adjustments following further discussions in the Secretariat. The Bureau also supported the preliminary list of items for SBSTTA 20, bearing in mind that this list could still evolve. The Bureau also noted the need to coordinate the preparation of the meetings of SBSTTA and other inter-sessional meetings and COP 13.

8. At its meeting on 15 January 2015, the Bureau further discussed the preparatory processes for some items on the agenda of SBSTTA 19 and 20, in particular planned expert groups. Mr. David Cooper provided an update on the AHTEG on indicators, which would most likely take place either in July or late August/ early September 2015. The notification on the nomination of experts to this group would soon be issued and the Bureau would be consulted on the selection of experts. Planning is also underway for the AHTEG on synthetic biology.

9. Members of the Bureau suggested that a member of the SBSTTA Bureau could represent the Bureau at the expert group meetings, and that provision should be made in the financial planning of these meetings to support their travel, where feasible.

10. The Bureau requested that the Secretariat issue the notifications relating to preparatory processes for items on the agenda of SBSTTA 19 and 20 as soon as possible. The Secretariat would prepare a comprehensive timetable and schedule on preparatory processes for SBSTTA 19 and 20 before the next meeting of the Bureau.

ITEM 3. DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR SBSTTA 19

11. Mr. David Cooper introduced the draft annotations to the draft provisional agenda for SBSTTA 19. **The Bureau broadly agreed with the draft but made some specific suggestions for edits, which the Secretariat would address in finalizing the provisional agenda.**

12. With regard to the organization of work of SBSTTA 19, the Bureau concluded that it may be advantageous to intersperse the meeting with WG 8(j) 9. This approach would ensure that sufficient time for informal discussions is available. Further, this would facilitate communication between the delegates attending SBSTTA 19 and those attending WG 8(j) 9, and allow them the opportunity to participate in the sessions addressing relevant items under the respective other meeting.

¹ See notification 2015-003 of 8 January 2015, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2015/ntf-2015-003-cop13-en.pdf>.

13. The Bureau noted that such an organization of SBSTTA 19 and WG 8(j) 9 would require the agreement by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, and is also subject to financial and logistical constraints, in particular the availability of financial resources to support the participation of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Bureau recognized that the two meetings may benefit from the attendance of different experts and therefore encouraged donors to provide sufficient funding for adequate participation of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

14. Aware that the budget for the biennium 2015-2016 provides for up to 9 sessions with interpretation, the Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to organize SBSTTA 19 over four days in order to distribute the work load.

15. The Bureau also discussed the format of SBSTTA 19 in light of the experience gained from SBSTTA 17 and lessons learned from the two surveys conducted following SBSTTA 17.² **It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare draft recommendations for SBSTTA, which could comprise both conclusions of SBSTTA and draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.** The Bureau emphasized that due to the heavy workload of the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, items on the agenda of COP 13 would need to be well prepared by the subsidiary bodies. The Conference of the Parties should not have to negotiate issues that could be concluded by the subsidiary bodies.

16. It was also agreed that selected agenda items at SBSTTA 19 would be introduced by expert presentations. The Bureau members were invited to identify suitable experts. A first suite of presentations would focus on the further implications of GBO-4, research and training, and the report of the AHTEG on indicators. A second set of presentations would focus on biodiversity and human health, the update of the studies on climate-related geoengineering, and possibly also the study on how other organizations and can support the achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

17. Following the successful practice at SBSTTA 17 and SBSTTA 18, the Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to organize a workshop on scientific and technical matters prior to the formal meeting.

18. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body intends to share the chairing of sessions of the SBSTTA 19 meeting with other members of the Bureau.

ITEM 4. IMPLICATIONS OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF IPBES 3 FOR WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION

19. The Bureau noted that in decision XII/25 the Conference of the Parties had set out the modalities for cooperation between the Convention and IPBES including the role of SBSTTA; SBSTTA would exchange scientific and technical information with IPBES and review the findings of deliverables prepared by the Platform with a view to preparing recommendations for the Conference of the Parties. The Executive Secretary and the SBSTTA Chair would also continue to collaborate with IPBES. The Bureau also recalled that a Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD and IPBES Secretariats had been signed on the margins of COP 12.

20. The agenda of IPBES 3 included review of the scoping of numerous future deliverables of the Platform, including methodological assessments on scenarios and values, thematic assessments on invasive species, land degradation and sustainable use and regional and global assessments of

² available at www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-18/information/sbstta-18-inf-01-en.pdf and www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-18/information/sbstta-18-inf-12-en.pdf

biodiversity and ecosystem services. Among other items, IPBES 3 would consider the work of task forces on knowledge and data, and capacity building.

21. The Bureau noted that some IPBES products, such as the draft catalogue of policy tools, drew heavily on the work of the Convention. There was a major opportunity for the IPBES regional and global assessments to draw upon the work of GBO-4. Even with IPBES, GBO would continue to have an important role to present conclusions to decision makers.

22. The following areas of opportunities for strengthened collaboration between CBD, in particular SBSTTA, and IPBES were noted:

- (a) The participation of the SBSTTA Chair (or his representative from the SBSTTA Bureau) in the MEP;
- (b) Communications from the CBD Secretariat to inform the ongoing work of IPBES on relevant items (eg. GBO-4 as a input to the regional and global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services; Compilations of existing studies and policy guidance tools related to invasive species, land degradation and sustainable use);
- (c) Encouraging participation of Parties in the IPBES processes, including nomination of experts and peer review;
- (d) Organization of side events on IPBES activities at SBSTTA (eg on the pollinators assessment at SBSTTA-19) which could promote awareness of ongoing work among SBSTTA focal points and encourage Parties to participate in the peer review processes;
- (e) Review and use of final IPBES deliverables (assessments and tools);
- (f) Joint work on supporting technical and scientific collaboration (such as in the development of the matchmaking facilities of BesNET and BioBridge);
- (g) Interaction of SBSTTA and CBD focal points in the development of the IPBES regional (and any sub-regional) assessments, to strengthen NBSAP implementation in countries.

23. The Bureau noted that it would be important to strengthen CBD Secretariat involvement in the scoping of relevant assessments and tools, in particular the regional and global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services. It was agreed that the Secretariat should continue to inform Parties of the relevant ongoing IPBES processes.

24. At its meeting on 15 January 2015, the Bureau discussed a timetable for the review of IPBES deliverables by SBSTTA and opportunities for inputs from the Convention, provided in Annex 2. It was noted that the first drafts of the IPBES deliverables on scenarios and pollinators would become available in the next few weeks for expert review, and that the approved outcomes of these deliverables could be reviewed at SBSTTA-20.

25. The Chair and Secretariat highlighted the need for the global assessment to be approved by the IPBES Plenary at the latest in the first half of 2019 to inform the 2020 review of the present Strategic Plan and the potential development of a successor plan. This would allow SBSTTA 23 (expected to be held in the fourth quarter of 2019) to consider the outcomes of the assessment, and for the outcomes to inform a possible GBO-5. SBSTTA 24 (expected to be held in the second quarter of 2020) would be

expected to consider a possible GBO-5 and the scientific aspects of any successor of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. SBI-3, to be held back-to-back with SBSTTA 24, would be expected to finalize a draft decision containing the successor strategic plan, for adoption by COP 15 later in 2020. This would be consistent with the approach suggested in the informal meeting of the European SBTTA-Focal points (11 December 2014, Brussels) which had suggested that a fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook be prepared to provide a “Final Report on Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020” based *inter alia* on the IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (see item 6).

26. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body would raise the need for the global assessment to be approved by the IPBES Plenary at the latest in the first half of 2019 and the members of the Bureau agreed to draw the attention of their regions to this issue.

ITEM 5. PREPARATION FOR THE SBSTTA BUREAU RETREAT

27. The Bureau thanked the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation for its offer to host a SBSTTA Bureau retreat on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, in April 2015. It was agreed that the retreat should be held for three working days, with arrival in Vilm on April 7, 2015. Horst Korn would provide detailed logistical information in due course.

28. The Bureau, at this retreat, would address three clusters of issues: (i) Routine work of the SBSTTA Bureau in preparing SBSTTA 19 and 20; (ii) ways to strengthen the technical and scientific nature of SBSTTA, taking into account work undertaken by IPBES, the relationship of SBSTTA with IPBES and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as well as any implications for the *modus operandi* of meetings of SBSTTA; and (iii) identification of substantive issues that SBSTTA may address in the period up to 2020.

29. It was noted that it would be advantageous to arrange for appropriate facilitation of the discussions under clusters (ii) and (iii). A detailed programme for the retreat will be developed and shared with all members in due time.

30. With regard to the second cluster of issues, it was noted that the informal meeting of the European SBTTA-Focal points (11 December 2014, Brussels) had made a number of relevant suggestions (see item 6).

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS, INCLUDING REPORT FROM THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN SBSTTA FOCAL POINTS HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 11 DECEMBER 2014

31. Mr. Horst Korn introduced the report of an informal meeting of the European SBTTA-Focal points and other interested experts dealing with SBSTTA and related issues, which had been held on 11 December 2014, in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting mainly addressed (i) the relationship between SBSTTA and IPBES, incl. the future of the Global Biodiversity Outlook; (ii) the relationship of SBSTTA with the new SBI and the Working Group on Article 8(j); and (iii) reviewing the SBSTTA process and procedures. Recommendations from this meeting included to ensure policy relevance of IPBES deliverables with regard to the CBD and other MEAs, GBO-5 to provide a “Final Report on Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020” based on *inter alia* the IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and SBSTTA to consider an update of its *modus operandi*. Most of the issues addressed by the European meeting were discussed by the Bureau under the relevant agenda items of its meeting. More discussions on these matters will take place during the SBSTTA Bureau retreat.

32. The Bureau noted the need to ensure funding for the implementation of a number of requests to the Executive Secretary from COP 12 relating to the work of SBSTTA, including requests related to invasive alien species (GIASI Partnership, biocontrol and trade-related tools), capacity building on biodiversity and human health, forest biodiversity, sustainable wildlife management, GSPC, training for online reporting and some issues related to mainstreaming in agriculture, forests and fisheries).

33. At the meeting on 15 December, Mr. David Cooper informed the Bureau that the Secretariat had been invited to present the findings of GBO-5 as well as the updated synthesis report on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity (Technical Series 75) at the second meeting of the fourth session of the Structured Expert Dialogue on the 2013-2015 review of the adequacy of the long-term global goal under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Bureau welcomed this opportunity to promote the findings of the CBD assessments.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

34. The meeting of the Bureau on 11 January 2015 closed at 5 p.m. The informal meeting of the Bureau on Thursday, January 15, 2015, met from also met from 1.30 to 3 p.m.

ANNEX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<i>SBSTTA Bureau</i>	
Mr. Andrew Bignell New Zealand (Chair)	
Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente Cuba	Mr. Horst Korn Germany
Mr. Mustafa Fouda Egypt	Ms. Malta (Nopasika) Qwathekana South Africa
Mr. Youngbae Suh* Republic of Korea	Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma Costa Rica
Ms. Snezana Prokic* Serbia (via telephone for items 1-3)	Ms. Shirin Karryeva Turkmenistan

Apologies: Mr. Endang Sukara, Indonesia

<i>Observers</i>	
Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Mexico	Ms. Maria Luisa Del Rio Mispireta* Peru (COP Bureau) (for items 4-5)
Ms. Andrea Cruz Angon Mexico	

<i>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i>	
Mr. David Cooper Principal Officer	Ms. Simone Schiele**

* 11 January only

** 15 January only

Annex II: Tentative timetable of consideration of IPBES deliverables by CBD, and inputs to the process

Assessment or other deliverable	Opportunities for input prior to finalization	Approval by IPBES plenary	Consideration by SBSTTA	Consideration of SBSTTA's conclusions by COP
Pollinators	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-19	IPBES-4, January 2016	SBSTTA-20, April 2016	COP-13, December 2016
Scenarios	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-19	IPBES-4, January 2016	SBSTTA-20, April 2016	COP-13, December 2016
Values	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-19 or 20	IPBES-5, Q1 2017	SBSTTA-21, Q4 2017	COP-14, Q4 2018
Regional assessments	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-21	IPBES-5, Q1 2018 (tbc)	SBSTTA-22, Q2 2018 (tbc)	COP-14, Q4 2018 (tbc)
Land degradation	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-22	IPBES-6, Q1 2019 (tbc)	SBSTTA-23, Q4 2019 (tbc)	COP-15, Q4 2020 (tbc)
Invasive species	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-22	IPBES-6, Q1 2019 (tbc)	SBSTTA-23, Q4 2019 (tbc)	COP-15, Q4 2020 (tbc)
Sustainable use	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-22	IPBES-6, Q1 2019 (tbc)	SBSTTA-23, Q4 2019 (tbc)	COP-15, Q4 2020 (tbc)
Global Assessment	Inputs to peer-review process and side event at SBSTTA-22	IPBES-6, Q1 2019	SBSTTA-23, Q4 2019	COP-15, Q4 2020
