

## **Minutes of the SBSTTA Bureau Teleconference 5 April 2011**

**Present\*:** Senka Barudanovic - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chair; Gabriele Obermayr – Austria ; Emine Isciel (represented Tone Solhaug) – Norway; Ignatius Makumba – Zambia; Krishna Chandra Paudel – Nepal; Monyrak Meng – Cambodia; and Alexander Shestakov – Russian Federation. From SCBD: Jo Mulongoy, Jaime Webbe, Annie Cung, Junko Shimura, Robert Höft and David Coates.

\* Joyce Thomas Peters – Grenada, could not be contacted due to technical problems but provided comments by email. Nabil Hamada – Tunisia, and Maria Barcelos Cavalcante Vieira – Brazil, were unable to participate.

### **Introduction:**

1. The teleconference was convened by the Chair of the Bureau with the main objective to agree on an agenda and organization of work for SBSTTA 15 as well as addressing any other matters Bureau members and the Secretariat wished to raise. At the end of each agenda item, the Bureau Chair summarized the discussions and issues that were resolved were noted. The minutes below reflect the main discussions and agreements.

#### **1. Opening of the meeting:**

2. The teleconference started at 9:00 a.m. (Montreal time).

3. The Chair of SBSTTA welcomed participants and thanked the Secretariat for sending the documents. The Chair then called for the adoption of the agenda. The agenda was adopted as follows :

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Division of work between SBSTTA 15 and 16
3. Organization of work for SBSTTA 15 and 16
4. Role of Bureau members at SBSTTA 15
5. Other matters
  - 5.1 Approval of the list of participants for the AHTEG on indicators
  - 5.2 Poster session and keynote presentation for SBSTTA 15: proposed themes and keynote presenter
  - 5.3 Need and support for a face-to-face meeting prior to SBSTTA 15 (Update from the Secretariat and Norway)
  - 5.4 Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism
6. Closure of the meeting

#### **2. Division of work between SBSTTA 15 and 16**

4. Even though COP called for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) to be considered at SBSTTA 15, the SBSTTA Bureau felt that it is very important to have it for SBSTTA 16 in order to allow the Strategic Plan discussions to be completed and be taken at SBSTTA 16 bearing in mind any recommendation on the Strategic Plan. The Bureau agreed to move GSPC to SBSTTA 16 and provide the COP with an explanation.

5. Regarding the progress report on the work in addressing paragraphs 40 to 42 of decision X/28 on the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle, given that the final report will not be ready on time for SBSTTA 15, the Secretariat proposed two options: (1) to have a progress report at SBSTTA 15 and submit the final report to SBSTTA 16 or COP 11 as an Information Document or (2) to move this item to SBSTTA 16 under item 4.5 Reporting items. The Bureau preferred option 1 and therefore agreed to have a progress report at SBSTTA 15 and submit the final report to either SBSTTA 16 or COP 11 as an Information Document.

6. A comment was raised on behalf of JUSCANZ regarding the item on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the SBSTTA. It was suggested to consider IPBES under this item at SBSTTA 15 in order to transmit information to the next meeting of the IPBES. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it would not have time to prepare a document for SBSTTA 15 due to the timing of the IPBES meeting. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that since SBSTTA has no mandate to send anything directly to IPBES, any recommendations would have to go to COP before being transmitted to IPBES.

7. Another comment was raised on behalf of JUSCANZ regarding the fact that Protected Areas is not on the agenda of either SBSTTA 15 or SBSTTA 16. It would have liked to see a report on Protected Areas under the Strategic Plan discussions. The Secretariat advised the Bureau that there is no mandate for SBSTTA to discuss this, although, of course, protected areas discussions under the strategic plan will be supported by the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA).

### **3. Organization of work for SBSTTA 15 and 16**

8. The Bureau considered the proposed organization of work for SBSTTA 15. The revised organization of work following discussion during the teleconference is presented in Annex 1.

9. The Bureau observed that more time may be required to have the second reading of documents. Therefore it was suggested to move Item 6. “Draft provisional agenda, dates and venue for SBSTTA 16” to Friday afternoon just before the adoption of the report. On Wednesday afternoon, after Item 5. “Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the SBSTTA”, some time would be allocated to “Pending issues” from Plenary. In addition, on Thursday afternoon, instead of having “Pending issues” in the two working groups, it was suggested to have it in plenary. The Secretariat noted that the organization of work is always kept flexible. If there are no pending matters from Plenary on Thursday afternoon, the afternoon can be used for pending issues from the working groups.

10. The Bureau decided to discuss the organization of work for SBSTTA 16 at a later time.

### **4. Role of Bureau members at SBSTTA 15**

11. The Chair proposed that the Bureau members agree to lead on certain agenda items in order to streamline both the preparations of documents and discussions during SBSTTA 15. A note was circulated prior to the teleconference with a suggested distribution of roles and a list of related inter-sessional meetings. It was understood that to lead on an item could involve (1) attending inter-sessional meetings on the item (where possible), (2) chairing the agenda item during SBSTTA, and (3) following the preparation of the documents.

12. Regarding the attendance of Bureau members to inter-sessional meetings, the Bureau judged that it is difficult to commit to attending meetings when budgets are unclear. Therefore, this issue will need to be revisited on an ad hoc basis as the meetings arise. It is also important to note that the Bureau Member from Norway will not be able to attend any meetings before August. In addition, the Bureau Member from Grenada would prefer to be assigned to Inland Water issues rather than Invasive Alien Species given her experience in this topic (comments sent by email). Krishna, Ignatius, Alexander and Monyrak accepted the items proposed to them.

13. The Bureau strongly supported the idea of following the preparation of documents on the assigned items. The Secretariat will provide the list of staff in charge of the preparation of the respective documents, and a proposed and tentative schedule for the production of the different drafts of each document. In addition, relevant staff could send document outlines to the Bureau members.

14. Nabil Hamada (Tunisia) was proposed as Rapporteur for SBSTTA 15. The role of the Bureau members at SBSTTA 15 will continue to be discussed by email.

## **5. Other matters**

### **5.1 Approval of the list of participants for the AHTEG on indicators**

15. Regarding the arrangements for the AHTEG on indicators and the larger expert meeting, the Bureau agreed to the option of having the AHTEG take place from 20 to 24 June, and the larger expert meeting from 20 to 22 June; the two groups meeting together from 20 to 22 June and the larger expert meeting acting as a resource for the AHTEG.

16. However the Bureau Members, recalling they had approved the list of AHTEG members, noted they could not make a decision on who among Tone, Monyrak and Krishna would represent the Bureau at the meeting. The Bureau will decide before the minutes are finalized. In the meantime, the name of the Chair will be included in the list of participants to receive relevant information.

### **5.2 Poster session and keynote presentation for SBSTTA 15: proposed themes and keynote presenter**

17. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that more information on this matter would be sent later and that the Executive Secretary was planning to invite Tom Lovejoy to a working lunch with the SBSTTA Bureau on Sunday 6 November 2011 between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm in Joke Waller Hunter Conference Room of the CBD Secretariat. DR Lovejoy would make a presentation on the outcomes of the recent meeting of STAP. Subsequent discussions would set the basis for strengthening cooperation between SBSTTA and STAP, the scientific body of the financial mechanism of the CBD, on issues of synergies among the three Rio conventions in the context of the preparation of Rio 2012 and beyond.

### **5.3 Need and support for a face-to-face meeting prior to SBSTTA 15 (Update from the Secretariat and Norway)**

18. The Bureau reiterated its desire for a face-to-face meeting prior to SBSTTA 15. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the limited funds available for a face-to-face meeting. The representative of the Bureau member from Norway kindly confirmed that 100,000 NOK has been allocated to the Secretariat for a face-to-face Bureau meeting. The Secretariat will explore the possibility of organizing a Bureau meeting on the margins of another meeting where some Bureau Members would already be present in order to realize cost savings. The importance of agreeing on the agenda of the face-to-face meeting was stressed.

### **5.4 Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism**

19. The Bureau discussed a background note sent by the Secretariat regarding the Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism, its composition and Terms of Reference (TORs). The Secretariat provided a summary of the changes between the current TORs and the original TORs and explained the rationale for the changes in membership and TORs.

20. The Bureau suggested some new wording under point 6 of the TORs, which will be sent to the Secretariat before end of next week. It was also suggested to keep the list of organizations under point 9 more open to allow for participation of other organizations, especially regional organizations. The Secretariat will add a sentence clarifying that the list is not exclusive or closed. There is also a need to explicitly reflect in the text that the members should have experience and knowledge in taxonomy. The Bureau also saw problems with the list of organizations, especially since paragraph 10 calls for nominations from Governments whereas paragraph 9 includes a list of organizations that are supposed to be involved. A comment was also made about ensuring that the number of organizations not be too large relative to the number of Governments. The Bureau members agreed to provide comments in writing to the Secretariat by 12 April 2011.

## **6. Closure of the meeting**

21. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the teleconference at 11:00 am (Montreal time).

*Annex I*

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
Monday, 7 November 2011 <b>10 a.m. –11:30 a.m.</b>	<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>1. Opening of the meeting;</p> <p>2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work;</p> <p>Keynote presentation</p>		
Monday, 7 November 2011 11:30 a.m. –1 p.m.	3.3 Capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative.		
Monday, 7 November 2011 <b>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</b>	3.1 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020: Updated technical rationale, suggested milestones and indicators		
Monday, 7 November 2011 6 p.m.	Poster session begins		
Tuesday, 8 November 2011 <b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	3.2 Ways and means to support ecosystem restoration		
Tuesday, 8 November 2011 <b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>		4.1 Invasive alien species: proposals on ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food	4.2 Inland water biodiversity: Implications of changes in the water cycle, and freshwater resources in the implementation of the programmes of work

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
<p>Wednesday, 9 November 2011</p> <p>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>		<p>4.3 Sustainable Use: Options for small-scale food and income alternatives in tropical and sub-tropical countries and revised recommendations of the Liaison Group on Bushmeat</p>	<p>4.4 Arctic biodiversity</p>
<p>Wednesday, 9 November 2011</p> <p>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</p>	<p>5. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.</p> <p>Pending issues</p>		
<p>Thursday, 10 November 2011</p> <p>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>	<p>Pending issues</p>		
<p>Thursday, 10 November 2011</p> <p><b>3 p.m. –6 p.m.</b></p>	<p>Pending issues</p>		
<p>Friday, 11 November 2011</p> <p>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>		<p>Pending issues</p>	<p>Pending issues</p>
<p>Friday, 11 November 2011</p> <p><b>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</b></p>	<p>6. Draft provisional agenda, and dates and venue for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice</p> <p>7. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting</p>		