



Convention on Biological Diversity

BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
8h00 to 10h00 Montreal
Via teleconference (Microsoft Teams)
8 December 2020

MINUTES

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held via teleconference on Tuesday 8 December 2020, from 8:00 to 10:00 (Montreal time).
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico), Chair, Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles), Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco), Mrs. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mrs. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Mrs. Helena Brown (Antigua & Barbuda), Mrs. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mrs. Tia Stevens (Australia) and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway). Apologies were received from Mr. Dzmitry Lukashanets (Belarus), Mr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine), and Ms. Gwen Sisior (Palau).
3. The meeting was supported by the CDB Secretariat including Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Secretary of the SBSTTA Bureau), Mrs. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Mr. David Cooper, Mrs. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Mrs. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi and Mrs. Caridad Canales.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 8:00 a.m. (Montreal time) on Tuesday, 8 December 2020 by the SBSTTA Chair.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The SBSTTA Chair presented the agenda items for the meeting. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

3. UPDATE ON THE OUTCOME OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COP ON BUDGET

6. Upon a request from the Chair, the CBD Secretariat shared the key outcomes from the extraordinary COP. The key outcome is the interim budget. It was highlighted that this approved budget includes allocations for online meetings of the subsidiary bodies (SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3). This budget was approved based on 6 working days for each meeting.

4. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE SPECIAL VIRTUAL SESSION FOR SBSTTA-24 AND SBI-03 ON BIODIVERSITY, ONE HEALTH AND COVID-19

7. The Chair and the Secretariat informed on the preparation of the special virtual session, including secretariat notification for registration of participants and sharing the link to the web page that contains agenda and discussion document to guide parties and observers.

8. The Bureau suggested to compliment proposed three presentations from IPBES and GEF with the intervention from WHO.

5. STATUS OF THE PRE-SESSION DOCUMENTS FOR SBSTTA-24

9. The CBD Secretariat provided an update on the status of the pre-session documents for SBSTTA-24:

(a) Item 3 post-2020 monitoring framework: 1) main document 3 is online in all languages, 2) Add 1 is online in English (other 5 languages are expected soon and will be going through the additional technical language check) and 3) Add 2 in process of development with partners and will be available 6 weeks before the meeting;

(b) Item 4 synthetic biology: online in all languages for several months;

(c) Item 5 risk assessment and management: online in all languages for several months;

(d) Item 6 marine biodiversity: online in all languages for several months;

(e) Item 7 soil biodiversity: online in all languages for several months. An updated version is published to ensure full consistency with the final policy summary of the FAO report on soil biodiversity (annex in the pre-session document) as per the report released by the FAO on 4 December. Changes have no implication for the recommendations and the main part of the pre-session document;

(f) Item 8 IPBES: final draft will be released to the Bureau by 11 December 2020;

(g) Item 9 health: will be available 6 weeks before the meeting;

(h) Item 10: online in all languages for several months.

6. ORGANISATION AND MODALITIES OF THE INFORMAL SBSTTA-24 VIRTUAL MEETING

10. The Secretariat introduced key points for organisation of the informal online meeting of the SBSTTA-24 as proposed for February 2021. Suggested modalities are similar to those presented to and discussed by the Bureau at previous meetings (also refer to the annex 1 of the annotated agenda for the meeting).

11. The Bureau was referred to the decision on budget by the extraordinary COP in November where the budget for informal online meeting of the SBSTTA-24 informed the approach to the organisation of the meeting and its length. The current budget is available for 6 working days. In this case, only a limited number of agenda items can be covered by the meeting. It was suggested in this case to follow the original numerical order of agenda items.

12. Based on the previous and generous offer from the EU to provide additional extrabudgetary funds to extend the meeting from 6 to 10 working days in order to cover all agenda items, the Bureau requested the SCBD to urgently contact the EU and provide necessary information on funds required. Also, the SCBD was requested to contact other potential donors in search of funds to allow extension of the meeting to 10 days. The SCBD will inform the Bureau on availability of funds as soon as possible.

13. The Bureau supported the suggestion to run the meeting in two slots: 1) 15-20 February 2021 and 2) 24-27 February 2021. This approach will allow to avoid overlap with UNEP UNEA meeting 22-23 February. In case of no extrabudgetary funding available the meeting will be in 6 days during the week 15-20 February 2021.

14. The Bureau discussed the nature of the meeting and its outcomes. It is acknowledged that this meeting is informal with no substantive outcomes. The procedural report will be provided as well as analysis of experience and lessons learned to inform further discussions by COP and SBSTTA Bureaux on format and modalities for the formal SBSTTA-24 meeting. This report will include status of participation in the informal meeting.

15. The Bureau members agreed to chair sessions on specific agenda items as per previous arrangements (see Annex 1). In case of technical issues on the side of the chair for the session the SBSTTA Chair will take over and run the session.

16. The Bureau considered organisation of regional meetings and SBSTTA Bureau meetings. It was suggested to arrange for regional meetings before session starts, followed by SBSTTA Bureau meeting and providing at least 30 min break before starting the SBSTTA session. This topic further to be considered as may vary for different regions (based on predominant time zone).

7. ORGANISATION OF THE BRIEFING SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR THE INFORMAL SBSTTA-24 VIRTUAL MEETING

17. The CBD Secretariat introduced the key points on organisation of briefing sessions on SBSTTA-24 agenda items. It will go in conjunction with similar briefing on post-2020 related agenda items of the SBI-3 (items 5 on post-2020 and 9 on review mechanism). SBI briefings will be organised first and will provide the context for the SBSTTA agenda item 3 on post-2020 monitoring framework.

18. The Bureau discussed modalities for briefing sessions including the need to keep discipline for presentations at the session covering items 4-10 and keep interactive format to engage more participants. The Bureau agreed:

- (a) to organise the briefings the week 25 January (Chair and the SCBD to identify specific dates);
- (b) to have two days for briefings: day for agenda item 3 and day for other agenda items;
- (c) to have two sessions a day to accommodate different time zones – 8am and 8 pm (Montreal time);
- (d) to ensure strict time management at sessions especially the sessions on agenda items 4 to 10;
- (e) to provide for the recording of sessions and make it available at the CBD website.

8. OTHER MATTERS

19. No other matters were brought to discussion.

20. The Bureau highlighted the need to organise its next meeting as soon as possible in early January 2021 and requested the Chair and the SCBD to identify the suggested date for the meeting and share with the Bureau as soon as possible.

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

21. The Bureau meeting closed at 10:15 hrs.

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Annex 1

Organization of work for the virtual informal SBSTTA-24 meeting

Days	Agenda Item	Chair
Day 1	1. Opening of the Meeting	Hesiquio
	3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework	Marina
Day 2	3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework (continue)	Marina
Day 3	4. Synthetic biology	Gaute
Day 4	5. Risk assessment and management	Gaute
Day 5	6. Marine biodiversity	Mary May
Day 6	7. Soil biodiversity	Adams
Day 7	8. IPBES	Adams
Day 8	9. Health and biodiversity	Helena
Day 9	10. Invasive alien species	Helena
Day 10	Adjourn the meeting	Hesiquio

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