



## Convention on Biological Diversity

CBD/SBSTTA-Bureau/2023-03/Minutes  
20 March 2023

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

### BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

7.00 to 9.30 a.m. (Montreal time)  
Via teleconference (Microsoft Teams)  
9 March 2023

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. A meeting of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held via teleconference on Thursday 9 March 2023, from 7.00 to 8.55 a.m. (Montreal time).
2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz (Mexico, Chair), Ms. Alison McMorrow (Australia), Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mr. Jan Plesnik (Czechia), Ms. Marina von Weissenberg (Finland), Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa (Gabon), Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway), Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint-Lucia), Mr. Bilal Qtishat (Jordan), Ms. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles), and Ms. Ana Teresa Lecaros Terry (Peru). Apologies were received from Ms. Gwen Sisior (Palau).
3. The meeting was supported by the following CBD Secretariat staff: Ms. Jihyun Lee (SBSTTA Secretary), Mr. David Cooper, Ms. Sakhile Silitshena, Ms. Jillian Campbell, Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi, Ms. Véronique Allain and Ms. Annie Cung.

### I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 7:00 a.m. (Montreal time) on Thursday 9 March 2023 by the SBSTTA Chair.
5. In his opening remarks, the Chair congratulated the Bureau and the Secretariat for the hard work related to COP 15 and adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its associated package of decisions to support the implementation of the Framework. He also noted the recent successful outcomes of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, to which some of the Bureau members have contributed. The Chair encouraged the Bureau members to continue their good work in providing scientific and technical support to the implementation of the Framework.
6. In his opening remarks, Mr. David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the CBD, echoed the SBSTTA Chair in thanking the Bureau members for their valuable work and achievements during COP 15. He highlighted the instrumental role of SBSTTA, not only in providing a sound scientific basis for the development of the Framework, but also in supporting other key decisions. He emphasized the urgent need for action to happen now if we want to meet the 2030 Targets. Mr. Cooper also noted the various upcoming assessment reports of the IPBES, which will become important inputs for the work of SBSTTA. He also informed the Bureau on the efforts being made, together with the COP President, to celebrate International Biodiversity Day, with a focus on “from agreement to action”, and invited the Bureau members for their continuous support for providing a robust scientific and technical advice for effective implementation of the Framework.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

7. The SBSTTA Chair presented the agenda for the meeting and it was adopted without any changes.

### **III. OVERVIEW OF SBSTTA MEETINGS FOR 2023-2024, INCLUDING DISCUSSION ON DRAFT LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR SBSTTA 25 AND SBSTTA 26 AND RELEVANT PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES**

8. The Chair invited Ms. Jihyun Lee, Secretary of SBSTTA, to provide information on the possible dates and venue for SBSTTA 25 and 26. She explained that due consideration was given to ensure the dates do not overlap with other major meetings (a list of global meetings in 2023 and 2024 was circulated as reference for the Bureau). Two sets of dates are being explored, taking into consideration availability of venues and funding: either 15 to 21 October 2023 or 29 October to 4 November 2023. For SBSTTA 26, dates in May 2024 are being explored.

9. The Chair emphasized the importance of proper planning in order to ensure that meeting documents are available six weeks before the meetings, and encouraged the Secretariat to prepare short and concise documents to facilitate efficient consideration by SBSTTA.

10. The Secretariat then introduced the documents that were circulated to the Bureau to facilitate discussions. Amongst them is a table (see annex 1) containing the list of proposed items for consideration by each of the SBSTTA meetings. The columns summarize, for each of these proposed agenda items, the action for SBSTTA as guided by COP decisions, list of notifications issued or to be issued, including tentative schedule of peer review, associated expert processes (e.g. AHTEG, IAG, expert workshops, etc), and the type of meeting documents to be prepared by the Secretariat.

11. It was explained that the Chair prepared, in consultation with the Secretariat, the list of proposed agenda items for each SBSTTA meetings, taking into account the amount and timing of preparatory activities required, necessary inputs from other processes and fora, and the need to provide a balanced work allocation between two SBSTTA meetings.

12. The Chair also noted paragraph 9 of decision 15/4, which requests the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This issue would require further discussion and a rapid analysis within the Secretariat on the scope and approaches to implement this decision and therefore it will be discussed by the SBSTTA Bureau at a later stage.

13. Under this agenda item, the Bureau had the following comments and observations:

(a) The importance of peer review was emphasized and the need for providing enough time for the peer review, in particular for those documents covering complex issues;

(b) The need to pay close attention to some items that would require substantial preparatory work and urgent need to help identify necessary resources to undertake planned activities; and

(c) The need to address the scientific and technical gaps in facilitating the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. For example, some issues which are being addressed in the Targets are not sufficiently being covered by existing COP decisions or programmes of work.

14. Following this discussion, the Bureau agreed on the proposed list of items for the meetings of SBSTTA 25 and SBSTTA 26, as presented and further updated by the Chair (see annex 1). The Secretariat will update the Bureau regarding the details of peer-review schedule in due course.

### **IV. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SBSTTA BUREAU MEMBERS TO FOLLOW-UP ON DIFFERENT AGENDA ITEMS**

15. The Chair recalled the practice used in recent years in which Bureau members have volunteered to follow-up on particular agenda items, in order to support the work of the Chair. The Chair noted that this practice was successful and invited Bureau members to indicate the agenda items of their interest. Based

on the feedback from the Bureau members, a preliminary list of assigned topics was prepared in annex 2, which can be further updated in the future.

#### **V. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE SBSTTA BUREAU MEETINGS**

16. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that a two-day joint COP and SBSTTA Bureau meeting is being planned and further information on this will be shared shortly.

17. The Chair suggested that the Bureau should meet on a quarterly basis, both virtually or in-person in conjunction with other meetings.

#### **VI. OTHER MATTERS**

18. Under this agenda item, the Bureau received an update on the status of nomination of experts for the AHTEG on indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and was informed that they would receive soon this month a draft list of selected experts, including supporting information, for their review and comments.

19. In addition, the Secretariat provided a brief update on the issue of the suspension of COP 15, which is being discussed by the COP Bureau.

#### **VII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

20. The Bureau meeting was closed at 8:55 a.m. (Montreal time) on Thursday 9 March 2023.

*Annex I*

Agenda Item with Decisions/L doc.	SBSTTA Action requested by COP	Notifications, including Peer-review <sup>1</sup>	AHTEG/Expert/IAG Meetings <sup>2</sup>	Inputs to SBSTTA by the Secretariat
<b>Proposed Agenda Items for SBSTTA 25</b>				
Sustainable Wildlife Management Decision 15/23	Consideration of the future work of the Convention on the issues surrounding sustainable wildlife management	Notification inviting Peer review of draft guidance (June 2023)	N/A	Note by ES on Progress Report with inputs from IPBES and other stakeholders
IPBES PoW Decision 15/19	Consideration of the findings of those assessments and to provide recommendations relating to the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	N/A	N/A	Note by ES (in collaboration with IPBES Secretariat) <i>Note: IPBES meeting multi-disciplinary expert panel will be represented by David C/Hesiquio on COP 15 outcomes</i>
Invasive Alien Species Decision 15/27	Consideration of revised annexes I to VI, based on the results of the Peer-review	<b>Notification for (i)peer review of annexes and (ii) inviting submission of information on IAS (issued on 28 Feb 2023, Ref No 2023-017, Action by 30 March)</b>  Notification inviting to online forum to consider peer review of annexes (April 2023)	N/A	Note by ES on the compilation of peer-review

<sup>1</sup> Proposed dates are indicative, and updated schedule for peer-review will be informed to the Bureau in due course.

<sup>2</sup> Organization of in-person meetings is subject to funding availability, including the commissioning of consultancy as inputs to these expert processes.

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Biodiversity and Climate Change Decision 15/30	Consideration of compiled views on biodiversity and climate change	Notification inviting Parties and others to submit views and information on BD and CC (March 2023)	N/A	Note by ES based on the compilation of views on biodiversity and climate change
Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal GBF Decision 15/5 & Decision 15/13 (regarding plant conservation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review outcomes of the ad hoc technical expert group and complete the scientific and technical review of the monitoring framework and report their findings for subsequent consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Notification for the AHTEG on the indicators (issued on 11 Jan 2023, Ref No 2023-001, Action by 24 Feb)</b></p> <p><i>Note. SBSTTA Bureau members will receive draft list of selected experts for AHTEG (March 2023)</i></p>	<p>AHTEG on indicators-mostly through virtual meetings (April, June, 2023)</p> <p>In-person AHTEG meeting (late August or Early September 2023) focusing on the metadata for the adopted headline indicators, in particular those indicators that did not have existing methodologies and on any outstanding the binary indicators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress report by ES note, based on reports of the first two meetings of the AHTEG and any intercessional work</li> </ul>
Plant Conservation Decision 15/5 & Decision 15/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a set of complimentary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the global biodiversity framework</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note by ES with inputs from the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation</li> </ul>
Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review Decision 15/6	Provide advice on relevant scientific technical and technological inputs that should inform the global reviews	Notification on Peer review of draft procedures for global review (May 2023)		Note by ES Consideration of relevant scientific, technical and technological inputs

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	mentioned in paragraph 16 for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation			that should inform the global reviews
<b>Proposed Agenda Items for SBSTTA 26</b>				
<b>Nature and Culture</b> CBD/COP/15/L.10	Review and update the four adopted traditional knowledge indicators (Dec XIII/28) and are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the ongoing work on biological and cultural diversity and human well-being.	Notification for submission of views and information on four TK indicators (March 2023)	AHTEG on indicators will discuss these TK indicators, as relevant	WG8j-12 will include an agenda item on “review and update of four adopted traditional knowledge indicators” and inform the AHTEG on indicators and make its outcome available for SBSTTA-26
<b>EBSAS: further work</b> CBD/COP/15/L.14	<p>Consideration on adopting modalities for modifying descriptions of EBSAS and for describing new areas, based on the outcomes of 2 workshops;</p> <p>Consideration of draft terms of reference for a “relevant expert advisory body” in the context of EBSA modalities</p> <p>Consideration of voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for the EBSA description</p>	<p><b>Notification to request nominations for IAG (issued on 22 February 2023, Ref No 2023-014, Action by 6 April)</b></p> <p>Notification to request peer-review of draft modalities in advance of SBSTTA 26 (and SBI, as needed) (January 2024)</p> <p>Notification to request peer-review on draft voluntary guidelines on</p>	<p><u>EBSA IAG</u> The informal advisory group on EBSA will work virtually or in-person in conjunction with other meetings.</p> <p><u>EBSA modalities (para 4)</u> Technical expert workshop: June 2023</p> <p>Legal expert workshop: September September 2023</p> <p>Online discussion forum on</p>	Note by ES, based on the outcomes of two workshops and the work by IAG

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		EBSA peer-review process	outcomes of these workshops November 2023	
<p><b>Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity</b> CBD/COP/15/L.15</p>	<p>Consideration of draft update to the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity as well as that of island biodiversity, based on strategic review and analysis in the context of supporting the implementation of GBF</p>	<p><u>Analysis and revision of marine PoW</u> Notification to request submissions on marine and coastal PoW revision (April 2023)</p> <p>Notification to request peer-review on draft PoW revision (March 2024)</p> <p><u>Analysis and revision of island PoW</u> Notification to request submissions on island PoW revision (April 2023)</p> <p>Notification to request peer-review on draft PoW revision (March 2024)</p>	<p>Expert workshop on marine PoW revision (February 2024)</p> <p>Expert workshop on island PoW revision (February 2024)</p>	<p>Note by ES, based on the outcome of the strategic review and analysis of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, including the inputs from Parties and stakeholders and the outcomes of expert workshops</p>
<p><b>Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal GBF</b> Decision 15/5</p>	<p>Consideration of the outcome of the ad hoc technical expert group and complete scientific and technical review of the monitoring framework, and provide inputs to SBI</p>	<p>Notification on Peer review of proposed disaggregation of indicators</p> <p>Notification on Peer-review on recommendation and a capacity-building and</p>	<p><b>Post -SBSTTA 25</b> Online meeting of the AHTEG (possibly December 2023 or January 2024): To discuss any intersessional requests from SBSTTA 25,</p>	<p>Note by ES, based on the outcome of the further work by AHTEG</p>

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		development for monitoring strategy. (September to December 2023).	including updates on the indicators  In-person AHTEG: (Mar 2024): Discussion on disaggregation and capacity building; Any other intersessional work requested by SBSTTA 25.	
<b>Biodiversity and Health</b> Decision 15/29	Consideration of the updated version of the draft global action plan and targeted messages	Notification on Peer-review on updated draft Global action plan (Nov 2023)		Note by ES in consultation with SBSTTA Bureau, based on the inputs and peer-review results on updated version of the draft global action plan and targeted messages
<b>Synthetic Biology</b> Decision 15/31	Consideration of the outcomes of AHTEG established to support the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment	<p><b>Notification inviting for (i) submissions of information and (ii) online forum (issued on 6 February 2023, Ref No 2023-006; Action by 15 March)</b></p> <p>Notification inviting nominations for AHTEG on Synthetic Biology <b>(March 2023)</b></p> <p>Notification for peer review of AHTEG report <b>(December 2023)</b>.</p>	<p>Open-ended Online forum on Synthetic Biology (March 2023). -First AHTEG meeting (could be virtual) <b>(June-July 2023)</b></p> <p>Face-to-face meeting of AHTEG <b>(November 2023)</b></p>	Note by ES, based on the outcome of the work by Adhoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology



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<p><b>Risk Assessment and risk management</b> Decision CP-10/10</p>	<p>Consideration of the outcomes of the AHTEG on Risk Assessment</p>	<p><b>Notification inviting for (i) submissions of information and (ii) online forum ( issued on 6 February 2023, Ref No 2023-007, Action by 15 March)</b></p> <p>Notification inviting nominations for AHTEG on Risk Assessment (April 2023).</p> <p>Notification for peer review of AHTEG report (January 2024).</p>	<p>1st Online forum (April 2023).</p> <p>2nd online forum session to peer review the outline (August-Sep 2023).</p> <p>First AHTEG meeting (could be virtual) (Nov 2023).</p> <p>Face-to-face meeting of AHTEG (January 2024).</p>	<p>Note by ES, based on the outcome of AHTEG on Risk Assessment</p>
<p><b>Detection and identification of living modified organisms</b> Decision CP-10/11</p>	<p>Consideration of the information on experience with detecting newly developed and unauthorized living modified organisms, and the need to update the training manual on the detection and identification of living modified organisms</p>	<p>Notification inviting for submission of information on detecting newly developed and unauthorized living modified organisms, and developing reference materials, as well as ongoing collaborations involving national and regional laboratories (June 2023)</p>	<p>Online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms (Sept 2023)</p>	<p>Note by ES based on the compilation of submissions and online meetings/ technical collaboration with partner organizations</p>
<b>Work requiring further guidance from SBSTTA Bureau</b>				
<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</b> Decision 15/4</p>	<p>Para 9. Requests the Executive Secretary to conduct a strategic review and analysis</p>			<p><i>Note. Pending further discussion regarding the scope and approaches</i></p>

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	<p>of the programmes of work of the Convention in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to facilitate its implementation, and, on the basis of this analysis, prepare draft updates of these programmes of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate...and to report on this to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.</p>			<p><i>to implement this decision</i></p>
<b>Future SBSTTA prior to COP 17</b>				
<p><b>Biodiversity and Agriculture</b> CBD/COP/15/L.16</p>	<p>Consideration of the progress made in the implementation of the plan of action</p>			<p>Note by ES, based on the compilation of voluntary reports by Parties on the implementation of the plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity</p>

*Annex II*

**PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BUREAU MEMBERS TO FOLLOW-UP ON SPECIFIC  
AGENDA ITEMS<sup>3</sup>**

- Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: *Bilal (Jordan), Gaute (Norway), Adams (St.Lucia)*
- Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review: *Bilal (Jordan), Gaute (Norway)*
- Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: *Hesiquio (Mexico)*
- Sustainable wildlife management: *Jan (Czechia)*
- Invasive alien species: *Senka (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Jean Bruno (Gabon)*
- Biodiversity and climate change: *Jan (Czechia), Marina (Finland), Marie-May (Seychelles)*
- Synthetic biology: *Jean Bruno (Gabon)*
- Risk assessment and risk management
- Detection and identification of living modified organisms
- Biodiversity and health: *Marina (Finland)*
- Marine and coastal biodiversity: *Gaute (Norway), Marie-May (Seychelles)*
  - (i) Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and
  - (ii) Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: further work
- Nature and culture: *Ana Teresa (Peru)*
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Strategic review and analysis of the programmes of work : *Alison (Australia)*

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<sup>3</sup> This list can be updated with the progress in preparatory activities.