



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
LIMITED

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.1
5 May 2012

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Sixteenth meeting
Montreal, 30 April - 5 May 2012
Agenda item 15

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Rapporteur: Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia)

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), from 30 April to 5 May 2012.

ITEM 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

2. The meeting was opened at 10.10 a.m., on 30 April 2012, by Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Chair of the Subsidiary Body. Ms. Barudanović welcomed the participants and congratulated Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias on his appointment as the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She also expressed her gratitude to the former Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, for his commitment in working towards the adoption of the Strategic Plan and the Nagoya Protocol. The Chair said that she aimed to maximise the Subsidiary Body's contributions by further strengthening its science base in order to mobilize implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and to emphasize the role of biodiversity in solving many of the challenges of sustainable development. It was therefore important to consider how the Subsidiary Body would interact with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). She also reminded the Subsidiary Body that it would, at the present meeting, undertake an in-depth review of the island biodiversity programme, which was the last thematic programme of work of the Convention, and the last for which an in-depth review was scheduled in the multi-year programme of work.

3. The Subsidiary Body would also consider a package of issues on marine and coastal biodiversity. The Secretariat had organized a series of regional workshops to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). Drawing on the scientific information provided by those workshops, the Subsidiary Body was to prepare reports on the description of EBSAs for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting. In addition, the Subsidiary Body would also address the inter-linkages between biodiversity and climate change, which

was rapidly becoming the largest single threat to biodiversity. At the same time, adaptation to climate change, and climate change mitigation, offered opportunities to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the present meeting would discuss the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, as well as proposals on ways to fill the relevant information and knowledge gaps.

4. In closing she thanked those Governments whose contributions had enabled the participation of experts in the various meetings held in the inter-sessional period, and in particular the European Union, Germany, Norway and Spain for sponsoring participants from developing countries at the present meeting. She also thanked the members of the Bureau, the Executive Secretary, as well as those Governments and organizations that had sponsored their representatives, and those experts who had voluntarily given their time to participate in and advance the work under the Convention.

5. Mr. Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, welcomed participants, stating that the deliberations at the meeting should focus on providing guidance on the scientific and technical issues that needed to be addressed in order to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to contribute effectively to national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. There was a need to promote more effective technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, as committed by Parties in Article 18 and in the work programme on technology transfer. In that context he warmly welcomed the initiative of the Chair to organize a round-table discussion on practical ways to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the implementation of the Convention. There was also an urgent need for improved scientific evidence of the consequences of biodiversity loss for the functioning of ecosystems, their ability to deliver goods and services, and for human livelihoods and well-being. A continuous monitoring system for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets needed to be put in place, which would require enhanced commitment and participation of all Parties and partners. It would require making observations relevant to biodiversity on a systematic basis and with the necessary frequency and resolution, managing the information so that it could be used for assessments and for deriving indicators, improving existing models and for making better projections. He welcomed the recent establishment of the IPBES, which would assist the work under the Convention by carrying out assessments, generating knowledge, contributing to capacity-building and developing policy support tools and methodologies. Careful thought should be given to how the Subsidiary Body and IPBES could collaborate and interact in a practical and pragmatic way so that biodiversity came out as the winner. Finally, he said that there was a need for better integration of the Convention's work programmes and cross-cutting initiatives, while exploring synergies within the Convention process and with other conventions, particularly opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors.

A. Attendance

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments: *[to be completed]*

7. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended: *[to be completed]*

8. The following were also represented by observers: *[to be completed]*

B. Election of officers

9. In accordance with the elections held at the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body, the Bureau of the sixteenth meeting of SBSTTA comprised the following members:

Chair: Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation)

Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)
Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada)
Mr. Ignatius Makumba (Zambia)
Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea)
Ms. Larissa Maria Lima Costa (Brazil)
Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago)
Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati),
Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia)

10. It was agreed that Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia) would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

11. At the 1st and 2nd sessions of the meeting, the following were nominated as new Bureau members to serve for a term commencing at the end of its sixteenth meeting and ending at the end of its eighteenth meeting, to replace the members from Austria, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Cambodia:

Mr. Jean-Patrick LeDuc (France)
Ms. Brigitte Baptiste (Colombia)
Ms. Ivna Vukšić (Croatia)
Mr. Yousef Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia)

[To be completed]

C. Adoption of the agenda

12. At its 1st plenary session, on 30 April 2012, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1/Rev.1), as orally amended.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1 Election of officers;
 - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration with IPBES.
4. Global Biodiversity Outlook: preparation of the fourth edition.
5. Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work.
6. Marine and coastal biodiversity:
 - 6.1 Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;

- 6.2 Addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity;
- 6.3 Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas.
- 7. Biodiversity and climate change:
 - 7.1 Advice on the application of relevant REDD+¹ safeguards for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity;
 - 7.2 Integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information;
 - 7.3 Geo-engineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in regulatory mechanisms.
- 8. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: progress in implementing decision X/17.
- 9. Global Taxonomy Initiative: revised draft comprehensive capacity-building strategy.
- 10. New and emerging issues.
- 11. Biofuels and biodiversity: progress in implementing decision X/37.
- 12. Incentive measures: progress in implementing decision X/44.
- 13. Reports on collaborative work in the areas of agriculture, forests and health.
- 14. Other matters.
- 15. Adoption of the report.
- 16. Closure of the meeting.

13. The delegation of Ethiopia queried the absence from the agenda of ecosystem restoration and other issues still pending from the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body. The Secretariat responded that those matters would be addressed at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

D. Organization of work

14. In considering the organization of work, the Subsidiary Body had before it the proposed allocation of tasks contained in annex I to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1/Add.1/Rev.1.

15. The Subsidiary Body decided to set up two open-ended sessional working groups for its sixteenth meeting as provided in annex I to the document entitled "Organization of Work" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/Add.1/Rev.1).

¹ With reference to relevant decisions and documents of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the term REDD+ refers to "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries".

E. Work of the sessional working groups

16. At its 2nd plenary session, on 3 May 2012, the Subsidiary Body heard progress reports from the Co-Chairs of the working groups.

ITEM 3. WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SBSTTA IN LIGHT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND ISSUES, MODALITIES AND OPTIONS FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)

17. Agenda item 3 was taken up by the Subsidiary Body at its 1st plenary session on 30 April 2012. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2), as orally amended by the representative of the Secretariat. It also had before it, as an information document, the outcome of the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/40).

18. Mr. Neville Ash, Chief of the Biodiversity Unit at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), outlined the relevant outcomes of the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which had taken place in Panama City, Panama, from 16 to 21 April 2012.

19. In his presentation Mr. Ash said that IPBES would be composed of three structures: a plenary decision-making body, open to membership from States members of the United Nations, a Bureau, comprising the Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one from each of the United Nations regions, as well as five additional officers, and a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel that would carry out the scientific and technical functions of IPBES. He said that the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel would initially be comprised of five members, one from each of the five United Nations regions, but that it was proposed to move in the future to a biogeographic regional structure, and that the chairs of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the biodiversity and ecosystem services-related multilateral environmental agreements would be invited to attend its meetings as observers.

20. It had also been agreed that the seat of the Secretariat would be located in Bonn, Germany, with the United Nations Environment Programme acting as the interim Secretariat. He explained that while the functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements had been elaborated, some details still had to be finalized, and that in view of the work to be undertaken, the first plenary meeting of the IPBES was likely to take place early in 2013. That would allow those involved to consider the inputs from the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, and the conferences of the parties, of the biodiversity and ecosystem services-related multilateral environmental agreements.

21. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Japan, Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yemen.

22. Statements were also made by representatives of the ETC Group, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Metis National Council.

23. Following the discussion, the Chair asked Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico) and Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway) to facilitate an informal group to consider the suggested amendments to the draft recommendation. At its 2nd plenary session, on 3 May 2012, Mr. Benítez Díaz reported to the Subsidiary Body on the progress of the informal group. Following the progress report, the Subsidiary Body resumed its discussion of agenda item 3 in light of a draft recommendation he presented.

24. Statements were made by representatives from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, the European Union, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay.

25. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of IPBES.

26. In response to a question, the legal advisor to the Secretariat said that according to paragraph 4 (i) of Article 23 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties could undertake any additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention, and therefore could determine how the Convention interacts with other bodies such as IPBES. In addition, according to paragraph 3 of Article 25, it was within the powers of the Conference of the Parties to further elaborate the functions and terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body. Consequently the Conference of the Parties could establish the modalities for the interaction between the Subsidiary Body and IPBES.

27. Following the exchange of views, the draft recommendation, as orally amended, was approved for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.6.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

28. *[To be completed]*.

ITEM 4. GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK: PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH EDITION

29. *[To be completed from the report of Working Group I]*.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

30. At its 2nd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.3 from Working Group I, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/xxx. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

ITEM 5. ISLAND BIODIVERSITY: IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

31. *[To be completed from the report of Working Group II]*.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

32. At its 2nd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.2 from Working Group II as recommendation XVI/xxx.

33. A statement was made by a representative of the Cook Islands, speaking also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, the Seychelles and Trinidad and Tobago. The countries concerned, acknowledging the progress and process involved in

reaching consensus, fully endorsed the recommendation adopted and noted the opportunities for island States and States with islands to renew their commitment to the programme of work on island biodiversity through the on-going preparation of action plans for protected areas and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) consistent with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. They urged Parties to mainstream updated NBSAPs and action plans for protected areas into national planning and work programmes to ensure a broad-based undertaking of national obligations under the Convention, including the achievement of the Aichi Targets. Finally, they looked forward to the proposed initiative of island States in the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to recognize leadership by island States and States with islands in taking early action on the programme of work on island biodiversity and their contribution to the Aichi Targets.

ITEM 14. OTHER MATTERS

[To be completed]

ITEM 15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

[To be completed]

ITEM 16. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

[To be completed]
