

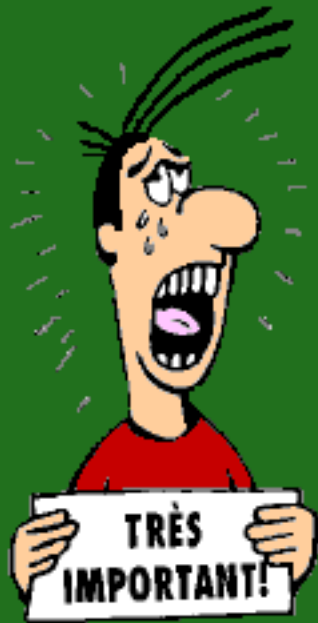
# **Role and Functioning of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**

**Training workshop in preparation for SBSTTA 12**

1 July 2007 in Paris, France



## In the Preamble of the Convention, it is recognized that there is:



- a general lack of information and knowledge regarding biological diversity
- an urgent need to develop scientific, technical and institutional capacities to provide the basic understanding upon which to plan and implement appropriate measures



# The three Rio Conventions and their scientific organs



**Convention on Biological Diversity**



Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice



**UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice



**UN Convention to combat desertification**



Committee for science and technology



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**Article 25 of the Convention**

# SBSTTA mandate (CBD article 25)

- 1. Multidisciplinary**  
Provide timely advice relating to the implementation of CBD;  
report to COP



## **SBSTTA mandate (CBD article 25)**

### **2. Following COP guidelines and upon its request:**

- a) Scientific and technical assessments of status of biodiversity**
- b) Scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken**
- c) Innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and promotion of development and/or transfer of such technologies**
- d) Advice on scientific programmes and international cooperation in research and development**
- e) Response to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions from COP and its subsidiary bodies**



# SBSTTA mandate

## Other relevant Articles include:

- **Article 7:** Identification and monitoring
- **Article 8:** *In-situ* conservation
- **Article 9:** *Ex-situ* conservation
- **Article 10:** Sustainable use of biodiversity components
- **Article 12:** Research and information
- **Article 18:** Technical and scientific cooperation
- **Article 19:** Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits



# CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Open-ended Working Groups

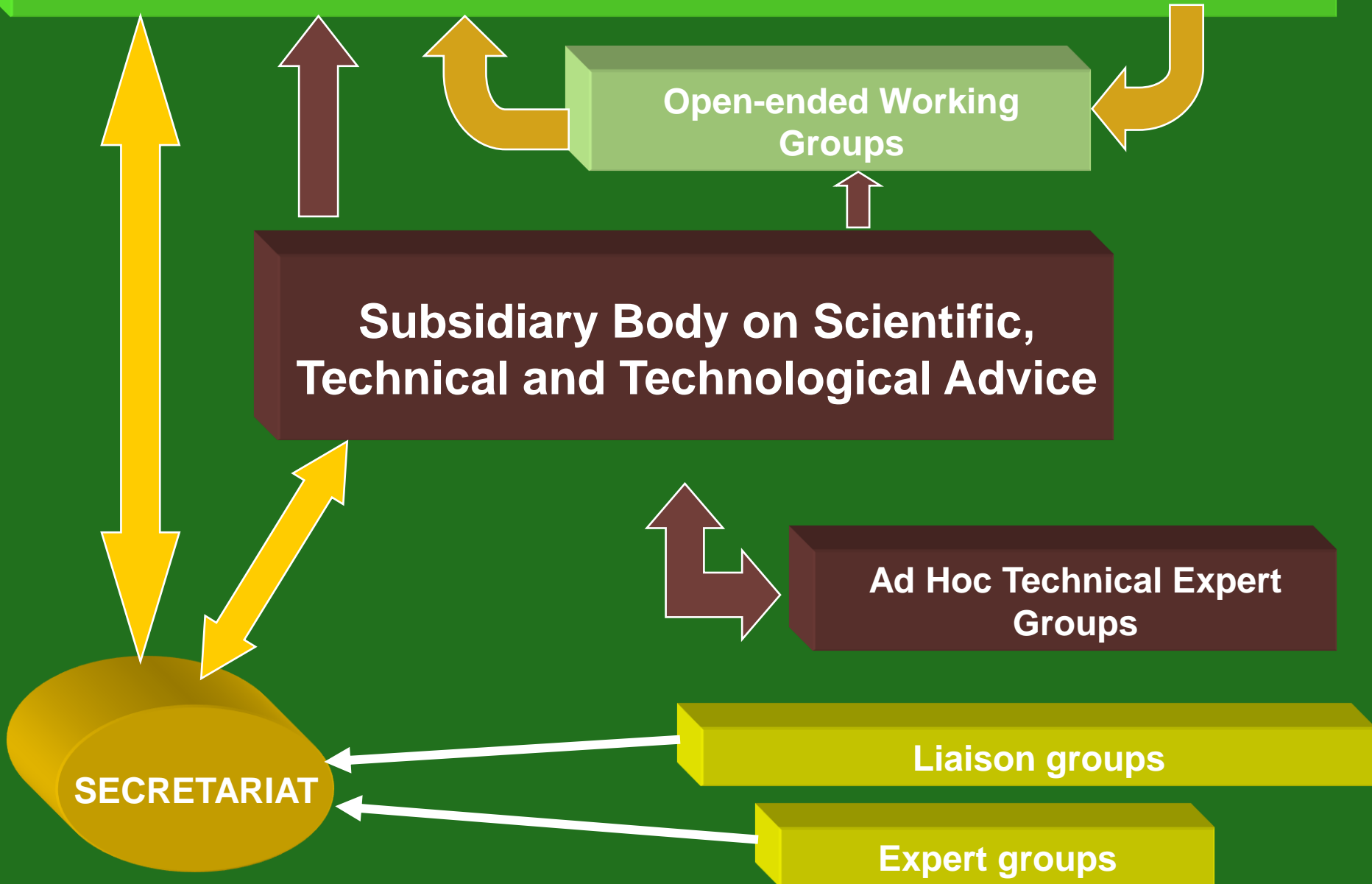
Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups

Liaison groups

Expert groups

SECRETARIAT



# SBSTTA meetings

- SBSTTA 1: UNESCO, Paris, 4 - 8 September 1995
- SBSTTA 2: Montreal, 2 - 6 September 1996
- SBSTTA 3: Montreal, 1 - 5 September 1997
- SBSTTA 4: Montreal, 21 - 25 June 1999
- SBSTTA 5: Montreal, 31 January - 4 February 2000
- SBSTTA 6: Montreal, 12 - 16 March 2001
- SBSTTA 7: Montreal, 12 - 16 November 2001
- SBSTTA 8: Montreal, 10 - 14 March 2003
- SBSTTA 9: Montreal, 10 - 14 November 2003
- SBSTTA 10: Bangkok, 7 - 11 February 2005
- SBSTTA 11: Montreal, 28 November - 2 December 2005
- SBSTTA 12: UNESCO, Paris, 1-6 July 2007
- SBSTTA 13: FAO, Rome, 18 - 22 February 2008



# Achievements of SBSTTA

1. Advice on implementation of the Convention.



- Programmes of work
- Tools: guidelines; approach/principles; measurable targets

2. Scientific and technical assessment of status and trends of biodiversity

3. Scientific and technical assessment of effects of measures taken

# Thematic programmes of work and work on cross-cutting issues



**Marine and coastal biodiversity**



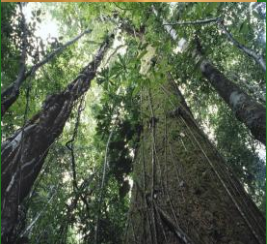
**Mountain biodiversity**



**Dry and sub-humid land biodiversity**



**Island biodiversity**



**Forest biodiversity**



**Agricultural biodiversity**



**Inland water biodiversity**



**Protected areas**

# Structure of the programmes of work

Institutional, political  
environment;  
capacities

Conservation and  
sustainable use  
measures

Identification  
and assessment  
of biodiversity,  
and issues



# Tools

**Approaches**



**Ecosystem approach**

**Objectives**



**2010 targets**

**Strategies**



**Global Strategy for Plant Conservation**

**Guidelines**



**Environmental impact assessment**

**Sustainable use principles and  
guidelines**



**Guidelines for invasive alien species**



**Guidelines for tourism development**



**Initiatives**



**Global Taxonomy Initiative**



# Achievements of SBSTTA

1. Advice on implementation of the Convention.

- Programmes of work
- Tools: guidelines; approach/principles; measurable targets

2. Scientific and technical assessment of status and trends of biodiversity

3. Scientific and technical assessment of effects of measures taken

- Interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Other global and regional assessments
- National reports
- Expert Groups

# Achievements of SBSTTA

4. Innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how and promotion of development and/or transfer of such technologies
  - Limited achievement
5. Advice on scientific programmes and international cooperation in R&D
  - Integrated into programmes of work
6. Response to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions
  - See bullet 1 above

# ***Modus operandi* of SBSTTA**

## **Rules of procedure of COP applied *mutatis mutandi***

- **Annex I of decision IV/16**
  - Functions
  - Rules of procedure
  - Frequency and timing of SBSTTA meeting
  - Documentation
  - Organization of work during the meetings
  - Ad hoc technical expert group meetings
  - Contribution of non-governmental organizations
  - Cooperation with other relevant bodies
  - Regional and subregional preparatory meetings
  - Focal points
  - Roster of experts
- **Amended by decision V/20, Section III**
- **Decision VIII/10**



# Decision VIII/10 on SBSTTA at COP8

## Guidance provided in the decision

### Annex III Consolidated *modus operandi* of SBSTTA

- A. Functions
- B. Operating principles
- C. Rules of procedure
- D. Frequency and timing of SBSTTA meetings
- E. Documentation
- F. Organization of work during the meetings
- G. Scientific and Technical Assessments
- H. Ad hoc technical expert group meetings
- I. Contribution of non-governmental organizations
- J. Cooperation with other relevant bodies
- K. Regional and subregional preparatory meetings
- L. Focal points

### Annex IV: Options for facilitating exchange of information and views on the items on the agenda of SBSTTA



# **Decision VIII/10 on SBSTTA at COP8: Guidance provided in the core of the decision**

## **SBSTTA**

- Reduce the number of agenda items to improve effectiveness;
- Ensure objective and authoritative assessments, and sufficient time for their consideration;
- Provide oversight on AHTEG

## **Parties**

- Nominate Focal Points and appropriate scientific and technical experts for AHTEG and assessments

## **Executive Secretary**

- Inform Parties in time about upcoming AHTEG meetings and assessments for nomination of experts
- Consider options for facilitating information exchange and views on items on SBSTTA agenda (Annex IV)

# Decision VIII/10 on SBSTTA at COP8: Annex III Consolidated *modus operandi* of SBSTTA

## A. Functions

## B. Operating principles:

- Improving the scientific, technical and technological inputs into SBSTTA meetings
- Improving the scientific, technical and technological debate

## C. Rules of procedure

- SBSTTA may make requests to the Executive Secretary and utilize the CHM
- Recommendations can include options and alternatives

## D. Frequency and timing of SBSTTA meetings

## E. Documentation:

- Transparency (peer review)

# Decision VIII/10 on SBSTTA at COP8: Annex III Consolidated *modus operandi* of SBSTTA

F. Organization of work during the meetings:

- Focus on a theme

G. Scientific and Technical Assessments

H. Ad hoc technical expert group meetings

I. Contribution of non-governmental organizations

J. Cooperation with other relevant bodies:

- Cooperate with other relevant international, regional and national organizations (including scientific committees of biodiversity related conventions)

K. Regional and subregional preparatory meetings

L. Focal points:

- Terms of reference

**Decision VIII/10 on SBSTTA at COP8:  
Options for facilitating exchange of information and views on  
the items on the agenda of SBSTTA**

- Keynote speakers
- Introductory presentations
- Presentations in meetings of regional groups
- Informal workshops

# Brainstorming meeting of former, present and coming SBSTTA chairs, ' July 2006

## Selected recommendations:

- SBSTTA's mandate is not restricted to natural science
- Avoid political statements
- Provide SBSTTA outputs in an other form than draft decisions
- SBSTTA Bureau as a "think tank" for SBSTTA and the Secretariat



# Brainstorming meeting of former, present and coming SBSTTA chairs, ' July 2006

## Options on periodicity and length of SBSTTA:

1. 2 x 5-days meetings between COPs as now or with possibility of holding them from mid-week to mid-week.
2. One meeting between COPs and one meeting back to back or in parallel with COP (like UNFCCC).
3. One meeting between COPs with additional intersessional activities.

# SBSTTA bureau decisions regarding SBSTTA 12 and 13

- Only very short welcoming addresses at the opening by the SBSTTA chair, ES, host country and organisation – no regional group, IGO or NGO statements
- More use introductory presentations on agenda items by scientific and technical experts setting the context
- Encouragement of interactive debates – discouragement of prepared statements, congratulating the chair on election etc.



# SBSTTA 12: In-depth reviews

- **Ecosystem approach (EA)**
  - Application in fisheries, forestry and agriculture
  - Marketing of EA
  - Capacity building needs and options
  - Sourcebook
- **Global Strategy for Plant Conservation**
  - Enhancing implementation
  - Enhance collection of quantitative data
  - Need additional targets on climate change and nutrient loading?
  - Marketing GSPC (link with poverty alleviation)

