



Convention on Biological Diversity

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BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Conference call, 11 and 18 January 2012

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE CALL OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA)

Participating: Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada), Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation), Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), Mr. Ignatius Makumba (Zambia), Ms. Larissa M. Lima Costa (Brazil; only on 18 January 2012), Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago; only on 11 January 2012), and Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia; only on 11 January 2012). Mr. David Cooper (Secretary). Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati; because of the time difference, David Cooper established contacts with her prior to the conference calls and her comments were transmitted to the Bureau by the Chair). It was not possible to connect with Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinée), on 11 January 2012 and he was not available on 18 January 2012 due to prior commitments.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. The Chair of SBSTTA, Ms. Senka Barudanovic, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, opened the meeting at 9:15 am (Montreal time) on Wednesday 11th January. The first session of the meeting continued to 10.45. A resumed session was held from 9.00 – 10.30 am on Wednesday 18th January. At each session, the Chair welcomed the Bureau Members and Bureau Members agreed on the agenda for each session. This minute consolidates the outcomes of the discussions in both sessions. Bureau members were encouraged to send written inputs if they could not participate in particular sessions or if they had additional points to raise.

2. Provisional Agenda for SBSTTA-16

2. A draft provisional agenda had been presented to SBSTTA-15 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/16). SBSTTA took note of the draft noting the need to include an additional item, on the review of the draft Capacity building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative. SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary, with the guidance of the SBSTTA Bureau, to finalize the provisional agenda and make it available no later than three months before the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

3. Accordingly, the Secretariat prepared a revised draft agenda, which was the basis for discussions by the Bureau. The revised agenda presented each of the agenda items with more precision, according to the respective mandates provided by COP. In addition, the review of the draft GTI Capacity building Strategy was added.

4. The Bureau Members provided comments for improving the wording of some agenda items and a revised agenda was agreed upon.

3. Duration of the SBSTTA-16 meeting

5. Given the heavy agenda of SBSTTA-16, the Chair and the Secretariat proposed to hold the final plenary in the morning of Saturday 5 May 2012, in order to give more time on the Thursday and Friday for discussions in the working groups and in the contact groups, as appropriate. The Bureau discussed the pros and cons of this proposal at the two sessions of the teleconference, and some Bureau members made informal consultations within their region between the two sessions. It was noted that the cost implications of the extended SBSTTA session would be relatively minor provided that there were not additional night sessions and given that many delegates would be staying on for WGRI-4, or otherwise leaving in the afternoon or evening of Saturday 5th May.

6. At the second session, the Bureau Members agreed that the meeting of SBSTTA-16 would include the Saturday morning plenary and therefore be held from 30 April to 05 May 2012. The Bureau Members noted that this should not be seen as a precedent for future sessions and emphasized that there would still need to be efficient use of time in order to complete the work.

4. Annotated Provisional Agenda for SBSTTA-16 and Organization of Work

7. The Secretariat prepared an annotated agenda, consistent with the revised draft agenda, and this used as the basis for discussions by the Bureau. The Bureau Members made a number of suggestions to improve the text of the annotated provisional agenda. There were many discussions on the organization of work, i.e.:

- Most items should be considered in working groups and not in plenary given the large number of items;
- It was agreed that the in-depth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity would be held on Monday afternoon 30 April 2012;
- It was agreed that agenda item 3 (Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the SBSTTA in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration with the IPBES) should be discussed in Plenary and that a Plenary on Thursday morning should be held to discuss the CRP document on that same agenda item and to consider progress reports emanating from the Working Groups.

8. With these changes in mind, the Secretariat was asked to finalize the annotated provisional agenda and make it available as soon as possible.

9. There was a preliminary discussion on the need for contact group meetings. The Bureau Members considered that contact group meetings will be needed for agenda items 3 (Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the SBSTTA in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration with the IPBES), agenda item 6 (Marine and coastal biodiversity), agenda item 7.1 (REDD+), and agenda item 7.3 (Geo-engineering), Bureau members also acknowledged that there may be calls for informal discussions also on agenda items 5 (Island biodiversity) and 11 (Biofuels and biodiversity).

5. Preparation of documents for SBSTTA-16

10. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau Members on the schedule for preparation for documents indicating that advance versions or drafts for peer review will be made available wherever possible and

appropriate. The Secretariat would keep Bureau members apprised of the status of document preparation on a regular basis.

6. Poster session, side events and possible keynote speaker.

11. It was noted that the theme for International Day for Biodiversity in 2012 is marine and coastal biodiversity and that island biodiversity is the item for in-depth review. It was considered therefore that the poster session and the keynote speaker (if it is decided to have one) should relate to this theme in some way. It was also considered that side events that relate to the items on the agenda should be encouraged.

7. Issues, modalities and options for collaboration between SBSTTA and IPBES.

12. There was a preliminary discussion on the preparation of the pre-session document for item 3 of the agenda. Noting that the COP-10 and SBSTTA-15 requested the Executive Secretary to prepare this document in collaboration with the SBSTTA Bureau, the Members of the SBSTTA Bureau provided some preliminary views on the issues that should be covered in the pre-session documents. Bureau members noted that the document should cover issues, modalities and options for collaboration. It was also highlighted that the role of SBSTTA as set out in Article 25 of the Convention gives a major responsibility to SBSTTA for preparing scientific assessments. It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare an outline of the points needed to be discussed in this document and that further discussions on this topic would take place at another SBSTTA Bureau teleconference call. Further discussions, prior to finalization of this document, would also take place at the face-to-face SBSTTA Bureau Meeting in February 2012 in Montréal, and at other times prior to SBSTTA-16.

8. Organization of a face-to-face meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau.

13. The Government of Canada confirmed that funds will be provided for a face-to-face SBSTTA Bureau meeting to be held in Montréal. The dates of 16 & 17 February 2012 were chosen and the Secretariat would look into the possibility of another face-to-face SBSTTA Bureau meeting prior to SBSTTA-16, i.e. either in Vilm or in Sarajevo. The SBSTTA Bureau Members expressed their appreciation to Horst Korn for the invitation launched to attend the European preparatory meeting in Vilm in March 2012. The possibility to also host a SBSTTA Bureau in Sarajevo, Bosnia, prior to SBSTTA-16 meeting will also be looked into, with possible funding from Japan. The SBSTTA Bureau members also thanked the Governments of Canada and Japan for their support.

9. Closure of the meeting.

14. The Chair thanked the Bureau for their participation in the teleconference. The Secretariat also thanked the Bureau, acknowledging that for the Bureau members who could not attend this conference call, they would be properly briefed.
