



CBD



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

Second meeting

Isle of Vilm, Germany, 8-10 April 2015

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE FROM 8-10 APRIL 2015**

INTRODUCTION

1. The second meeting in the 2015-2016 biennium of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held from 8 to 10 April 2015 at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, hosted and supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. on 8 April 2015. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body, Andrew Bignell (New Zealand), welcomed participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting.

3. He noted that the meeting should allow the Bureau to conduct its usual work, including the approval of the agendas for SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20, but also provide sufficient time for brainstorming and the exchange of views on more strategic issues, such as ways and means to strengthen the operations of SBSTTA in light of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI).

4. He noted that participants had an opportunity the previous evening to meet informally to discuss issues that they would like to address during the retreat.¹

¹ The issues raised included: How to prepare for items related to mainstreaming at COP-13; The distribution of roles and work among SBSTTA, SBI and IPBES, including potential implications for the modus operandi of SBSTTA; The organization of work of SBSTTA-19 and WG8(j)-9; and the form of outcomes of SBSTTA (findings/ conclusions vs. draft decisions/recommendations.)

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

5. Under this agenda item, David Cooper, the Secretary of SBSTTA, gave a presentation on the background and context for the discussions at the meeting. In particular, he gave an overview of the work expected to be undertaken by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13).

6. Issues to be addressed by COP-13 follow from requests by the Conference of the Parties on specific issues, but also from the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties (MYPOW), contained in the annex to decision XII/31. The MYPOW identified a number of issues to be addressed by COP-13, for some of which no specific preparatory process under a subsidiary body was mandated. In addition, he noted that work at COP-13 would be undertaken in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, mainly within its 2011-2020 timeframe, but also taking into account its 2050 vision. Furthermore, the institutional context would also need to be considered in planning for COP-13, such as the establishment of SBI and the concurrent organization of COP-13, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (CP MOP-8) and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (NP MOP-2) within the period of two weeks.

7. David Cooper stressed that the Secretariat is still in the process of finalizing the draft provisional agenda of COP-13 for consideration by the COP Bureau. In addition to the formal items that deal with organizational matters, reports, and final matters, current thinking envisages three broad sections dealing with substantive matters. One section would contain items related to the review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the identification of additional actions, and the further strengthening of means of implementation. A number of the issues for COP-13 identified in the MYPOW could be addressed under this section.² Other issues on very specific topics, such as Article 8(j), marine and coastal biodiversity, invasive alien species, synthetic biology, pollinators, and sustainable use of biodiversity would be addressed under a separate section, while items on more institutional issues would be under a third section.

8. David Cooper noted how some of the work under SBSTTA would contribute to preparations for COP-13, including some of the issues identified in the MYPOW. In particular, the further consideration, at SBSTTA-19, of the implications of GBO-4 and related reports could contribute to the discussions at COP-13 on mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries, while the scientific analysis of progress towards the Aichi Targets at SBSTTA-20 would contribute to the interim review at COP-13. He also highlighted that the SBI would also be expected to help prepare for these discussions and in this regard encouraged the Bureau to consider the role of SBSTTA in relation to the role of SBI.

9. With respect to the item identified in the MYPOW for COP-13 on Article 12 of the Convention, he noted that it is envisaged that SBSTTA would focus on preparing the research aspect of this item, while SBI would address the training aspect.

10. In light of the context provided by COP-13 to the work of SBSTTA, he encouraged the Bureau to start to identify expected outcomes from SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20, i.e. which items would need

² For example: *interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and related means of implementation; the further consideration of the implications of the findings of GBO-4 and fifth national reports; strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries; the implications of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals and of other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention; ways and means to enhance the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention, in particular training and capacity-building for developing countries to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.*

recommendations, and which would need conclusions or findings. He reminded the Bureau that all recommendations to COP-13 would need to be well prepared due to the limited time available to COP.

11. Hesiquio Benitez, representative of the COP-13 Presidency, presented their vision for COP-13 and its high-level segment (HLS), which would be held immediately prior to COP from 2 to 4 December 2016. Mexico currently envisages the following outcomes:

- Inclusion/mainstreaming criteria: a menu of best practice in public policy that will serve as a toolbox for Parties;
- Specific guidelines for the inclusion of biodiversity criteria into public policies, particular for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism;
- The establishment of a mechanism to strengthen implementation, such as an expert group and a fund to support the design and implementation of public policies on mainstreaming;
- Interim review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and further strategic actions;
- Decisions on marine biodiversity;
- Presentation of good practices on implementation; and
- Consideration of the implications of the SDG process and a strong message to the international community on the role of biodiversity, and the CBD as a framework convention, for sustainable development

12. Mexico envisages the HLS to prepare a ministerial declaration, a draft of which would be circulated well in advance of the HLS. Mexico expects the ministerial declaration to call upon delegations to make advances on the mainstreaming agenda both at the COP and at domestic level. In the discussion following the presentation, it was suggested that any ministerial declaration resulting from the HLS should be a demonstration of commitment for collaboration amongst productive sectors and with the biodiversity community.

13. In preparing COP-13, it was further recommended to work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and to explore possibilities for engaging the policy making FAO committees for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security.

14. Ideas for additional initiatives by Mexico included work with legislators, as Mexico did with the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) with regard to climate change, as well as a national assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken by Mexico under the CBD.

15. Marcel Kok from the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency presented an overview of the findings from Technical Series 79 (accessible at www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-79-en.pdf) on how sectors can contribute to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. He emphasized the potential for more biodiversity-friendly production methods in the four sectors studied in detail (agriculture, fisheries, forestry and water management) by drawing on nature-based solutions and drew attention to the potential of social sciences to support efforts to engage those sectors. In doing so, it would be key to take into account the economic interests and core values of producers along the supply chain.

16. In the discussion following the presentation it was mentioned that mainstreaming policies or approaches with benefits for the local population are more likely to be successful. The importance of social sciences was again emphasized. Furthermore, it was noted that with respect to the mainstreaming agenda, SBI might wish to consider how to engage with various stakeholders, including the private sector.

ITEM 3. PROVISIONAL AGENDAS AND ANNOTATIONS FOR SBSTTA 19 AND SBSTTA 20

17. The Bureau considered the provisional agendas prepared by the Secretariat for SBSTTA 19 and 20 (documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/1 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/1). It also reviewed the annotations to these provisional agendas including the proposed organization of work (documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/1/Add.1 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/1/Add.1).

18. David Cooper recalled that the items to be addressed by SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20 had been presented to the Bureau at its first meeting in January. At this meeting, the Bureau already considered an initial draft of the agenda of SBSTTA-19 and a list of items for SBSTTA-20; annotations to the draft SBSTTA-19 agenda were also available at that meeting. Since the previous meeting of the Bureau, a few changes to the agenda of SBSTTA-19 had been made in the current drafts, essentially repackaging items now shown as items 3, 4 and 5. The annotations to the agenda for SBSTTA-19 had also been adjusted to reflect the relevance of the role of SBI for some items. The SBSTTA-20 agenda includes, in addition to the list of issues presented at the first meeting of the Bureau, items on protected areas and ecosystem restoration as well as new and emerging issues.

19. Robert Höft provided additional information concerning the agenda item on 4 „Tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020“. He also provided an overview of the work planned on indicators for the Strategic Plan, including the relationship with the process working on indicators for the SDGs under the United Nations Statistical Commission.

20. The Bureau decided to restructure the draft agenda of SBSTTA-19, bringing a number of sub-items under the heading “Strategic scientific and technical issues related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”. With this change, the Bureau agreed to the provisional agenda of SBSTTA-19 and annotations (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/1 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/1/Add.1., 10 April, 2015).

21. With regard to the organization of work for SBSTTA-19, the Bureau agreed to the proposal to hold SBSTTA-19 and the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8(j)-9) within the period of 2 to 7 November 2015, with SBSTTA-19 and WG 8(j)-9 each holding its meeting for two full and two half days. The Bureau noted that this responds to the budgetary restraints with regard to the number of sessions and the duration of the meetings. However, it also noted the limitations for funded delegates due to the fact that the Secretariat can only support one delegate for both meetings.

22. As discussed at its previous meeting (paragraph 16 of the minutes), it was suggested that experts would introduce the reports under item 4 of the preliminary agenda of SBSTTA-19 on the second day of SBSTTA-19. For interventions by Parties under item 3, it was considered to invite interventions on item 3.1 in the morning, and to invite combined interventions on items 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 in the afternoon.

23. The Bureau also reviewed and agreed to the draft agenda for SBSTTA-20 and its annotations/proposed organization of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/1 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/1/Add.1, 10 April, 2015)..

24. It was mentioned that at COP 12 the impacts of mining on marine and coastal biodiversity had been raised by a Party under the agenda item related to marine and coastal biodiversity and this would be taken into account in preparing documentation on this agenda item.

ITEM 4. PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR SBSTTA 19 AND 20

25. Under this item, the Secretariat provided the Bureau with a table summarizing the preparatory process for SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20. Preparatory work listed in the table included expert meetings, capacity building workshops, scientific and technical studies, as well as peer-review periods.

26. The Bureau considered the note on preparatory processes towards SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20. The Bureau noted that this information would be made available on the CBD website and agreed to draw the attention of Parties in their regions to this information in order to facilitate timely responses from Parties.

ITEM 5. OVERVIEW OF WORK UNTIL 2020

27. Under this item, David Cooper provided an overview of the work under the Convention until 2020 and the update of the Strategic Plan in 2020, taking into account decision XII/31 on the MYPOW, as well as the role of GBO-5 and IPBES in this context. (The relevance of other aspects of the IPBES work programme were considered under item 6 (see paragraphs 30-34).

28. In discussing this topic, the Bureau built upon its previous discussions at its meeting in January as well as the report of the Informal meeting of the European SBSTTA Focal Points and other interested experts dealing with SBSTTA and related issues (Brussels, Belgium, 11 December 2014). The Bureau reviewed a note that had been prepared on this topic and agreed with the schedule contained therein. The note and an overview table of related issues to be addressed at each meeting up to 2020 are contained in Annex II.

ITEM 6. WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE OPERATIONS OF SBSTTA

29. The Bureau was invited to discuss ways to strengthen the technical and scientific nature of SBSTTA and its operations, taking into account the work undertaken by IPBES and SBI, and to consider any implications for the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA.

Relationship with IPBES

30. With regard to the relationship between SBSTTA and IPBES, the Bureau recalled the conclusions from its meeting in January (see paragraph 22 of minutes of that meeting).

31. The Bureau emphasized the importance of the role of social sciences being adequately reflected in the work of IPBES, in particular the role of social sciences in analysing the processes through which humans take decisions, including in the regional and global assessments.

32. With regard to the timetable of IPBES deliverables, the Bureau noted the importance of the regional assessments to be finalized in early 2018, in order to ensure that any implications of these assessments would be considered by COP-14, as COP-15 will already have to address the implications of the global assessment.

33. The Bureau recognized the high importance of the IPBES assessments, in particular the global assessment, for the work under the Convention, but also noted that IPBES will not be able to provide the scientific background for all issues which SBSTTA has to address until 2020. It emphasized the role of SBSTTA as science-policy interface and its role to provide advice specific to the work of the Convention.

34. Robert Munroe, UNEP-WCMC, provided an overview of the work to be undertaken by the IPBES Task Force on Capacity Building at its third meeting and highlighted elements of particular relevance to the work of SBSTTA. The Bureau discussed options for taking advantage of and link in to these processes.

Relationship with SBI

35. With regard to the relationship between SBSTTA and SBI, the Bureau noted the terms of reference of the two bodies as set out in Article 25 of the Convention (for SBSTTA) and in the annex of decision XII/26 (for SBI).

36. The Bureau noted that paragraph 1 of Article 25 of the Convention states that SBSTTA was established to provide COP and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. It acknowledged that, therefore, in theory, the work of SBSTTA

and SBI could overlap. By and large, the functions of SBSTTA are geared towards measuring and expediting results in implementing the Convention at the global level while the SBI focuses on assessing the performance of Parties in the implementation of the Convention, the effectiveness of process and mechanisms that Parties put in place, and identifying the support that Parties might need in order to improve their own performance and the performance of the processes and mechanisms that are in place (see Annex III).

37. In discussing the relationship between SBSTTA and SBI, the Bureau also noted the potential role for SBSTTA in supporting, upon request, the Protocols under the Convention. It suggested that this matter could be discussed at the SBI in the context of integration between the Convention and its Protocols.

38. The establishment of SBI and the development of its *modus operandi* provide a unique opportunity to strengthen the review procedures under the Convention. Practice of review procedures in other conventions, for example the procedures under the UNFCCC, can inform the development of additional procedures with regard to the review of activities by Parties.

39. The Bureau discussed whether the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA needs to be revised in light of the establishment of SBI. In this context, it noted that the terms of reference of SBI provide that SBI, in performing its functions should take into account, where appropriate, input from SBSTTA and that SBI and SBSTTA should carry out their respective functions taking into account each other's specific role and functions with a view to ensuring complementarity in their work and avoiding overlap.

40. The Bureau, therefore, concluded that currently it is not necessary to undertake a comprehensive revision of the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA, noting that minor changes may be needed to adjust the *modus operandi* to the current way of working under the Convention.

41. Instead of revising the *modus operandi*, the Bureau recommended that SBSTTA work with SBI in a constructive and, most importantly, pragmatic fashion to advance the interests of the Convention.

42. Following this discussion, the Bureau considered how the work of SBSTTA would relate to the work of SBI in preparation for COP-13 with respect to some of the agenda items for SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20.

43. In the case of SBSTTA-19, item 3.1, the further consideration of the findings of GBO-4 and related reports (mandated by decision XII/1) would provide a scientific and technical foundation for a number of items to be considered by COP-13 (according to the MYPOW), specifically: Strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming, and the implications of relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention (for example, the SDGs and the climate agreement). Much of the preparatory work for this task has been done in GBO-4 and the underlying reports published as no. 78 and 79 in the CBD Technical Series. Thus not too much additional work would be needed on this aspect (except for more work on the role of indigenous and local communities, including through collective actions). Rather the preparatory work should draw out more clearly the findings of GBO-4 in the context of issues on the agenda for COP 13. The SBI could build upon the scientific and technical foundation provided by SBSTTA, for example by examining the potential role of actors and stakeholders including the private sector.

44. In the case of SBSTTA-19, item 3.2, SBSTTA would identify ways and means to address the scientific and technical needs identified at SBSTTA-17 and recognized in decision XII/1. This could include recommendations for further research (which might be taken up by relevant international research programmes), and recommendations for further work by SBSTTA or the Executive Secretary if and where necessary. Potential ways and means to address scientific and technical needs that fall under the mandate of SBI would be addressed to that body.

45. In the case of SBSTTA-20, item 3, SBSTTA would provide a scientific assessment that would contribute to COP's interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This assessment would focus on those targets for which evidence of progress since GBO-4 is available focusing on the global aggregate level. SBI could build on the conclusions and recommendations of SBSTTA, also looking at Parties' progress in updating NBSAPs and establishing national targets. SBI would prepare recommendations to the COP concerning ways and means to enhance implementation, overcome obstacles and strengthen means of implementation.

Strengthening links with social sciences

46. The Bureau also discussed further ways and means to strengthen the role of social sciences under the Convention. In particular, it was noted that relevant papers for SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20 should include social science aspects as far as is feasible. Social sciences is also one of the areas where SBSTTA-17 has identified scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan (these will be addressed under item 3.2 of SBSTTA-19).

Strengthening scientific dialogue in meetings and meeting preparations

47. The Secretariat also provided information on the 2013-2015 review process under the UNFCCC. The review was tasked to assess the adequacy of the long term global goal and progress towards achieving this goal. The review could be seen as a mechanism for science-policy dialogue. While the review is conducted in a joint contact group of UNFCCC SBI and SBSTTA, a specific process, the "structured expert dialogue" has been established to consider the inputs of the review through scientific workshops and expert meetings. The Bureau will further consider in which way a similar setting could be explored for future meetings, or on the margins of future meetings, perhaps starting with SBSTTA-20 in order to strengthen its effectiveness in supporting science-based policy making.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

48. Robert Höft provided an update on the status of the development of the online reporting tool and broad ideas for the implications for future reporting including the sixth national report. He reported that an informal consultation held at COP-12 had recommended that the Secretariat should only ask for information that is used for the analyses undertaken by the Secretariat. It would therefore be intended, in future national reports, to make reporting by Parties easier, for example by providing some pre-prepared information that Parties would be invited to revise and update, such as their biodiversity country profiles. The online reporting tool, which will complement reporting through formal national reports, would allow Parties to provide information on their national targets established in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as related indicators, and continuously provide information on progress in the achievement of these targets. The Bureau took note of the progress made in the development of the online reporting tool and the benefits it would provide. It called for the information entered by Parties to be accessible in such a way as to visualize developments and trends. This would require enabling a disaggregation by components of targets as was done in GBO-4. With those additions the Bureau expressed its support for the work of the Secretariat.

49. David Cooper provided an overview of the meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, which took place the previous week in Rome. The CPW focusses its work on terrestrial vertebrates. At its meeting in March, it had agreed to address sustainable use from a strategic perspective focusing on governance and following up on the relevant requests from COP-12, including to develop a note on the links between sustainable wildlife management and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and to analyse the sustainability of subsistence use and the impacts of domestic and international trade and markets on such use. He noted that, other than bushmeat and marine fisheries, the sustainable extractive use of biodiversity has not been systematically addressed under the Convention and only fisheries was reflected in the Aichi Targets. The consideration of the report prepared by the CPW for

SBSTTA-20 would provide an opportunity to recommend further steps on these issues under the Convention. It was also mentioned that information on activities undertaken under other biodiversity-related conventions could complement information on the implementation of elements of the Strategic Plan related to sustainable use. Relevant information can also be found in document IPBES-2/16/Add.6.

50. The Bureau also considered whether there are any other evolving substantive issues that the SBSTTA may need to be prepared to address before 2020. While members of the Bureau felt generally that most evolving issues should be covered by the Strategic Plan, implications of the new climate agreement were noted as important for the period up to 2020, and assisted migration or translocation of species threatened by climate change was identified as a potential topic.. An additional topic that was identified relates to shifting baselines, i.e. the change in the reference levels over time, against which changes are measured.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

51. The Bureau reviewed and adopted its report.

52. In closing, the Chair thanked the host, the Secretariat and resource persons for their support towards the meeting. He also thanked the members of the SBSTTA Bureau and the representative from the COP Bureau for their time and wishes the representative of the COP-13 Presidency all the best in pursuing the preparations.

53. The meeting closed at 4:00 p.m., on 10 April 2015.

Annex I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<i>SBSTTA Bureau</i>	
Mr. Andrew Bignell New Zealand (Chair)	
Ms. Eugenia Arguedas Montezuma Costa Rica	Mr. Horst Korn Germany
Mr. Youngbae Suh Republic of Korea	Ms. Malta (Nopasika) Qwathekana South Africa
Ms. Snezana Prokic Serbia	

Apologies: Ms. Lourdes Coya de la Fuente, Cuba, Mr. Mustafa Fouda, Egypt, Mr. Endang Sukara, Indonesia, Ms. Shirin Karryeva, Turkmenistan

<i>Observers</i>	
Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Mexico (representative of the COP-13 Presidency)	Ms. Mette Gervin Damsgaard Denmark (representative of the COP Bureau)

<i>Resource Persons</i>	
Mr. Marcel Kok Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency	Mr. Robert Munroe UNEP-WCMC

<i>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i>	
Mr. David Cooper Principal Officer	Mr. Robert Höft Environmental Affairs Officer, Scientific Assessment
Ms. Simone Schiele Junior Professional Officer	

Annex II

PREPARING FOR THE FINAL ASSESSMENT AND FOLLOW UP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2020: PREPARATION OF GBO-5, ROLE OF IPBES AND THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted in decision X/2, includes a long-term Vision for 2050 and a medium-term Mission for 2020, as well as a set of five strategic goals (of unspecified duration) and the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets mostly for 2020.³
2. The table in this note provides an overview of the main issues to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties as well as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at their meetings up to 2020. Section 1 provides an overview of the preparatory process for the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as for a follow up to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020.
3. As decided in the Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 (decision XII/31), the Conference of the Parties will consider in 2020 (COP 15) the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Interim assessments of progress would be undertaken at COP-13 and COP-14.
4. The final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will provide the basis for a draft updated strategic plan for biodiversity 2021-2030, which COP 15 is also expected to consider (see decision XII/31, annex).
 - a) *Interim assessments of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*
5. As steps toward the final assessment, COP 13 (2016) and COP 14 (2018) will consider interim reviews of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and related means of implementation. The interim reviews will be informed, among others, by information provided through the online reporting system. In line with paragraph 14 of the Strategic Plan (annex to decision X/2), the subsidiary bodies will support the COP in keeping under review the implementation of this Strategic Plan, and supporting effective implementation by Parties ensuring that new guidance is informed by the experience of Parties in implementing the Convention, in line with the principle of adaptive management through active learning. The Executive Secretary will prepare, as requested in decision X/2, paragraph 17 (b) analyses/syntheses of national, regional and other actions, including targets as appropriate, established in accordance with the Strategic Plan, to enable the COP to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets towards the global targets.
6. It is expected that SBSTTA-20 will consider the analyses/syntheses of the contribution of progress towards the global targets and provide SBI-1 with conclusions, based on which SBI would consider further strategic actions.
7. The interim reviews of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at COP 13 and COP 14 are also intended to encourage Parties to step up their ambition before 2020 as necessary and to direct targeted support for implementation. The Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 (decision XII/31) foresees additional items for both COP 13 and COP 14 to foster implementation of the Strategic Plan and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including (i) the further consideration of the implications of the findings of GBO-4 and fifth national reports and development of

³ Except for targets 10, 15 and 17 which are for 2015.

strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors; (ii) ways and means to enhance the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention, in particular training and capacity building for developing countries to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and (iii) the determination of funding needs to inform the GEF-7 replenishment for the 2018-2022 cycle. COP 13 and COP 14 will also look at the results of the process to enhance synergies among the biodiversity related conventions established at COP 12, and consider ways to further promote synergies and integration among the biodiversity related conventions, also with a view to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

8. COP 13 will consider guidelines for the sixth national reports and agree on the date when the reports have to be submitted. COP 13 will also address modalities for future editions of GBO, which will, in particular, consist in delineating the role of GBO-5 and the IPBES global assessment.

b) The final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

9. The final assessment will take into account not only the sixth national reports and information provided by Parties through the online reporting mechanism, but also the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which is due to be launched in early 2019.⁴

10. The date for the submission of the sixth national reports (to be agreed at COP-13, as noted above) should be the first or second quarter of 2019 in order to allow the reports to feed into the final assessment. It is expected that GBO-5 would be prepared to provide a focused “Final Report on Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”, which would be based inter alia on the IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The structure of GBO-5 would be similar to the structure of GBO-4, including a target-by-target analysis of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

11. With regards to timing this would imply that SBSTTA 23, expected to be held in the fourth quarter of 2019, will review the draft GBO-5 as well as the outcomes of the global assessment and the thematic assessments with regard to implications for the work under the Convention. At SBSTTA 24, expected to be held in the second quarter of 2020, GBO-5 will be launched and SBSTTA will consider its implications for the work under the Convention, i.e. a draft updated strategic plan for biodiversity 2021-2030.

c) Preparing for a follow up to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020

12. It is expected that a draft updated strategic plan for biodiversity 2021-2030 will be prepared based on the final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As foreseen in the Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020 (decision XII/31, annex), COP 15 is expected to consider follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related means of implementation, including resource mobilization.

13. As noted above, SBSTTA 24, expected to be held in the second quarter of 2020, will consider the implications of GBO-5. It would also consider the scientific aspects of the update of the Strategic Plan for

⁴ See the IPBES work programme adopted in decision IPBES-2/5 which provides for a global assessment that is envisaged to contribute to the process for the evaluation and renewal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The global assessment responds to the request in decision XI/13 C (para. 6) focusing on status and trends, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being, and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The IPBES workplan envisages the global assessment to be completed in time to be adopted by the IPBES 7th Plenary in early 2019.

Biodiversity. SBI-3, to be held back-to-back with SBSTTA 24, will finalize a draft decision containing the updated strategic plan, for adoption by COP 15 later in 2020.

14. In preparation for the update of the Strategic Plan in 2020, COP 13 will address the implications of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals and of other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention and also look at the integration among the Convention and its Protocols to ensure the integration of biosafety, as well as access and benefit-sharing in the updated Strategic Plan.

15. COP 14 will consider long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and their implications for possible pathways towards the 2050 Vision for the 2021-2030 period. The vision of the Strategic Plan is a world of “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”. COP 14 will also address approaches to living in harmony with nature as well as the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols.

TABLE 1: OVERVIEW TIMETABLE

November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of further implications of GBO-4 and other strategic actions on mainstreaming into and across sectors 	SBSTTA-19
April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim review of the implementation of the SPfB 2011-2020 and assessment of progress towards the achievement of the ABTs – assessment of national targets and means of implementation • Consideration of further support to enhance national implementation including mainstreaming • Consideration of 6NR guidelines and proposals for GBO-5 	SBSTTA-20 and SBI-1
December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim review of implementation of the SPfB / assessment of progress ABTs • Further implications of GBO-4; strategic actions, in particular mainstreaming • Support to enhance national implementation, including Article 12 • Determination of funding needs to inform GEF-7 • Implications of relevant international processes (SDGs, climate). • Approval of 6NR guidelines and modalities for GBO-5 	COP-13
4 th quarter 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for COP 14 items 	SBSTTA-21
2 nd quarter 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of IPBES subregional/regional assessments (tbc) • Preparation for COP 14 items 	SBSTTA-22 and SBI-2
4 th quarter 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim review of implementation of the SPfB / assessment of progress ABTs • Long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity. • Approaches to living in harmony with nature • Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions • Consideration of IPBES assessment on values and IPBES subregional/regional assessments and implications for the future work of the Convention (tbc) 	COP-14
1 st quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>IPBES Global Assessment approved by IPBES Plenary</i> 	<i>IPBES-7</i>
1 st quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for sixth national reports (e.g. March) 	
4 th quarter 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of IPBES Global Assessment and thematic assessments and implications for the future work of the Convention • Review of draft GBO-5 	SBSTTA-23
2 nd quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of GBO-5 providing final review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets • Consideration of implications of GBO-5 for the future work of the Convention • Scientific and technical review of draft updated Strategic Plan for 2021-2030 • Recommendation to COP on draft updated Strategic Plan for 2021-2030 	SBSTTA-24 SBI-3
4 th quarter 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final formal review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assessment of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets • Adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030 • Determination of funding needs to inform GEF-8 	COP-15

*Annex III***Possible Allocation of Items between SBSTTA AND SBI**

KEY AREAS OR ITEMS	SBSTTA Results (the what)	SBI Mechanisms (the how)
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Global Biodiversity Outlook ➤ Assessments and studies on specific issues ➤ Review of IPBES deliverables regarding implications for work under the Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Effectiveness of Convention processes and mechanisms
Review of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outcomes (aggregate impacts), global targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preparation, updating and implementation of NBSAPs, national targets ➤ Means of implementation, including financial resources mobilization
Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Measures on scientific and technical topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Measures to overcome obstacles ➤ Means of implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ financial resources mobilization ❖ technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building ❖ cooperation and partnerships ❖ engagement of stakeholders ❖ outreach ➤ Methods and approaches: mainstreaming, peer reviewing ➤ Preparation, updating and implementation of NBSAPs, and national reports
Technical and scientific needs and cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of scientific and technical needs (global level) ➤ International cooperation in research and development ➤ Identification of technologies and know-how ➤ Ways and means of developing or transferring technologies (generic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technical and scientific cooperation and the CHM ➤ Addressing needs of individual Parties (e.g. “matchmaking between needs and support”) ➤ Evaluating progress in technology transfer
Operations of the Convention/ Protocols		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Efficiency of structures and processes
Addressing needs of protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To be determined by respective MOPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enabled by the SBI TOR. Specific cases to be determined by MOPs