

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA-
BUR/2013/3
30 April 2013

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice
Conference call, 30 April 2013

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

Present: Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie (Chair, Ethiopia), Ms. Ivna Vuksic (Croatia), Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago), Ms. Risa Smith (Canada), Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc (France), Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinée) and Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation). Ms. Brigitte Baptiste (Colombia) and Mr. Yousef Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia) were unable to attend. Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati) was contacted separately at a later time due to the time difference. From the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the following staff members were present: Mr. David Cooper, Mr. Robert Höft, Ms. Simone Schiele, Mr. Kieran Noonan-Mooney and Ms. Annie Cung.

1. The teleconference was opened at 9:15 am (Montreal time). Mr Gemedo Dalle Tussie, SBSTTA Chair, welcomed the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the conference call.
2. Before proceeding with the items on the agenda, the Bureau reviewed the minutes of the previous teleconference and suggested some amendments. The final revised minutes were to be sent to the Bureau.

ITEM 1. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF SBSTTA-17

3. The Secretariat circulated a draft provisional agenda for the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-17), containing elements discussed during the previous teleconference. During the previous teleconference, it was suggested to move some items from SBSTTA-18 to SBSTTA-17 to reduce the workload of SBSTTA-18. The item on ecosystem restoration was proposed to be moved. The Secretariat had looked into this possibility and informed the Bureau that the work on ecosystem restoration would not have advanced enough by SBSTTA-17 to address this item in its entirety, but that a progress report could be envisaged. The Bureau agreed to have a progress report on ecosystem restoration at SBSTTA-17.
4. The Bureau raised the need to add a specific reference to IPBES in the provisional agenda. The Secretariat proposed to add a new item for a progress report on the IPBES intersessional process after item 4 of the draft agenda, and to specify that the item on conclusions and recommendations for further work would include discussions on further requests to IPBES.

5. Regarding the work related to marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), it was suggested to provide a progress report at SBSTTA-17 to give an update on the work of the Secretariat on this issue, such as progress with the regional workshops.
6. Comments were made regarding the consideration of, and potential input into, other related global assessments which are currently undergoing, such as the third State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture by the Food and Agriculture Organization. It is expected that some of these global assessments would be covered under the existing agenda items. If needed, the Secretariat could also prepare Information Notes on such assessments to provide an update and discuss potential contribution of SBSTTA to these processes.
7. A clarification was made regarding the agenda item on new and emerging issues. It was emphasized that SBSTTA-17 would not consider synthetic biology, but would rather focus on the identification of additional new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as such issues may arise in the context of the discussions related to the identification of scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. SBSTTA-18 would consider the issue of synthetic biology.
8. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the item on progress report would be used to provide progress reports on any item where there had been significant progress, such as the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, EBSAs, ecosystem restoration (including other land-based targets), and the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASIPartnership).

ITEM 2. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR SBSTTA-17

9. The Secretariat provided the Bureau with an update on the number of submissions received in response to notification 2013-005 on the identification of scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. Since only a limited number of submissions were received, the Secretariat informed the Bureau of plans to solicit further views of Parties and stakeholders through focus-group discussions and interviews at the Trondheim conference and online questionnaires.
10. The Secretariat is currently synthesizing information from the submission into a discussion note. This note can also stimulate further submissions. The Bureau discussed ways in which they could assist in collecting views from countries in their region, including through informal regional meetings, for example during the Trondheim conference, and encouraging Parties in their region to submit their views.
11. The Secretariat also provided information on the background papers being prepared for the Trondheim Conference and their peer review processes. The Secretariat will send information regarding the possibility to comment on the first paper after the deadline. The second paper will be made available for comments in the beginning of May. It was noted that the papers will also be further discussed during the Trondheim meeting.

ITEM 3. UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATED TO IPBES

12. The Secretariat updated the Bureau on recent discussions with the IPBES Interim Secretariat to ensure that the two processes can efficiently inform each other. The fact that the Chair of SBSTTA is an observer to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), and that the Bureau member from Trinidad and Tobago and from Saudi Arabia are members of the MEP, can facilitate coordination and maximize communication between the two processes.

13. The CBD Secretariat is preparing a submission to IPBES, responding to a call for submissions by IPBES on requests on scientific and technical matters that require the Platform's attention, which contains references to the CBD decisions relevant to IPBES (i.e. XI/2, XI/3, and XI/13). The draft submission will be circulated to Bureau members.

ITEM 4. DISCUSSION ON PREPARATION FOR THE SBSTTA BUREAU MEETING IN TRONDHEIM

14. The Bureau discussed preparations for the next face-to-face meeting of the Bureau to take place after the Trondheim Conference. The Bureau agreed that the meeting should discuss the following items:

- Preparation for SBSTTA-17.
 - Review of the draft annotated agenda;
 - Organization of work and format and modalities of the meeting;
 - Schedule for document preparation.
- Input to the IPBES intersessional process.
- Overview of the agenda for SBSTTA-18.
- Other matters including the process for additional input to the identification of scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.

15. It was also agreed that the majority of the time should be allocated to discussions on the organization of work and format and modalities of SBSTTA-17 and input to the IPBES intersessional process. The Secretariat will make relevant documents available before the meeting.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

16. The Chair of the Bureau reminded the Secretariat and Bureau members of the importance of initiating reflection on the identification of speakers to give introductory presentations during SBSTTA-17. The Secretariat agreed and also added that the Trondheim Conference will provide a good opportunity to identify potential speakers.

17. The Chair and Mr. Cooper thanked the Bureau for their participation in the teleconference. The meeting was closed at 11 am (Montreal time).
