



PRESS RELEASE

Science body of UN Biodiversity Convention meets to lay foundation for post-2020 global biodiversity targets

- *Some 600 delegates from around the world arrive in Montreal to provide input to the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework*
- *Governments will look at mainstreaming of biodiversity into mining, infrastructure and other key sectors*
- *Science body is essential driving force for evidence-based decision-making under the Convention on Biological Diversity.*

11 December 2017 – The science body under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meets this week to discuss a wide array of biodiversity-related issues critical for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and tackling climate change.

These discussions, taking place at the twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-21), being held in Montreal, Canada, from 11 to 14 December 2017, will lay the foundation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Close to 600 delegates from around the world will address the following issues:

Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity

SBSTTA-21 will consider models and scenarios with implications for the actions needed to reach the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, agreed by governments in 2010. This vision, “Living in harmony with nature”, reflects a global consensus that by the year 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people. Deliberations on these scenarios provide input to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Mainstreaming biodiversity into energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industry, and health sectors

SBSTTA, for the first time under the CBD, will launch consideration of the nexus between biodiversity and key economic sectors, including energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing industry, as well as health. SBSTTA’s work will help mobilize momentum and build a solid basis for further inter-sessional work and consensus building by the Second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on

Implementation (July 2018) and the next UN Biodiversity Conference¹, to be held November 2018 in Egypt.

Biodiversity and human health

All human health ultimately depends on ecosystem services that are made possible by biodiversity and the products derived from them. Biodiversity and human health are interlinked in various ways and better consideration of health-biodiversity linkages could contribute to improving many aspects of human health. SBSTTA will consider guidance for a “One Health approach to foster integrated approaches across health, environment, agriculture and other sectors with a view to enhancing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SBSTTA provides the essential driving force for evidence-based decision-making under the Convention. It has met 20 times to date and provided 216 recommendations. As a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the SBSTTA reports regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work. SBSTTA comprises government representatives competent in multidisciplinary fields of expertise.

Sustainable wildlife management: Guidance for achieving a more sustainable bushmeat sector

Wild meat has long served as a source of nutrition for millions of people in many regions of the world, in both developed and developing countries. In some rural communities in tropical developing countries, wild meat has been found to provide almost all of the protein in the diet. SBSTTA will further elaborate technical guidance for better governance towards a more sustainable bushmeat sector, with actions identified to be taken in the context of the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To that end, SBSTTA may provide recommendations to ensure that the supply of bushmeat is sustainably managed at the source, control the excessive demand of wild meat in towns and cities, and, create an enabling environment for the sustainable management of wild meat.

Fifth Edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*

The plan for the development of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-5) will be considered. A periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity worldwide, GBO-5 is an important input to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and provides the final assessment of progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Tools to evaluate the effectiveness of policy instruments for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

SBSTTA-21 will review different approaches and tools used to evaluate progress and the effectiveness of national actions for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Approaches to evaluation and their relevance to the preparation of the sixth national reports to the CBD will also be considered. These discussions will help in developing tools for evaluating the effectiveness of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

¹ Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held 10-22 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

SBSTTA will consider whether several issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity should be formally considered by the CBD. Four options under consideration include: environmental and social consequences of forced migration, “jurisdiction shopping” and selection of non-genetic-material media for transmission, legislative and regulatory frameworks to govern bioprospecting and use of digital sequence information, and impact of marine dust from the Sahara on the Amazon Rainforest.

NOTES TO EDITORS

SBSTTA-21 documents and policy briefs available at: www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-21

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties so far, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 171 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 104 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
