

Report on the expert meeting in preparation of the sixth meeting of SBSTTA, January 18-19, 2001

convened by the
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
at the **International Academy for Nature Conservation,**
Isle of Vilm

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!	Scientific Assessment
!	Migratory species and co-operation with the CMS
!	Global Taxonomy Initiative
!	Biodiversity and Climate Change, co-operation with the UNFCCC
!	Alien Invasive Species

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INTRODUCTION

The expert meeting in preparation of the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-6) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, was an informal scientific workshop, **aiming to exchange information on the topics to be discussed at the upcoming sixth meeting of SBSTTA**. The 41 participants from 16 European countries attended in their personal capacity as biodiversity experts. Dr. Plesnik, member of the SBSTTA-Bureau and chair elect of SBSTTA-7 and SBSTTA-8 and Dr. Beltram, member of the COP-Bureau took part in the meeting. The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was represented by its Executive Secretary Mr. Müller-Helmbrecht.

The participants of the preparatory meeting to SBSTTA-6 were welcomed by the head of the International Academy for Nature Conservation Dr. Knapp on behalf of the President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Prof. Dr. Vogtman, and by Mr. Schwenzfeier from the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Horst Korn from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

The topics were introduced briefly by specialists in this field and extensively discussed in the plenary. In this report the main points of discussion are summarized and general comments on the Secretariat's documents are given. In addition, amendments to the recommendations given in the Secretariat's documents are suggested. Topics of the Secretariat's documents not mentioned specifically in this report were widely agreed on by the participants. All major points raised during the discussion are represented in this report. **The aim of the workshop was not to reach a consensus on the individual points but rather to have an exchange of opinions and ideas.** A high degree of similar points of view was apparent.

This report is intended to help individuals and delegations in their preparation of the topics on the agenda of SBSTTA-6.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1 General recommendation

With respect on the future work of SBSTTA and to avoid duplication of efforts and capacities a joint meeting of representatives of the conventions (*inter alia* UNFCCC, Ramsar Convention, CMS, CCD, CITES) should be organized before SBSTTA-7 to discuss urgent common issues and concerns of relevance to global environmental problems, *inter alia* climate change and biodiversity, forest biodiversity protection and sustainable use. The chair of the above recommended joint meeting should present the outputs at SBSTTA-7.

2 Scientific Assessment

Introductory remarks:

An introduction to scientific assessments (referring to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/3; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/9) was given by Mr. Bärle focusing on the development of methodologies and identification of pilot studies and on ongoing assessment processes.

According to Article 25 of the Convention SBSTTA has two specific assessment responsibilities:

- (i) scientific and technical assessments of the status of biodiversity
- (ii) scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

Although the documents for the SBSTTA meeting focus on the assessments above mentioned under (i), the progress made in producing the first Global Biodiversity Outlook as the Convention's core activity regarding assessments above mentioned under (ii) is acknowledged.

Proposed pre-ambular language for a SBSTTA recommendation:

Acknowledging that the implementation of the Convention relies on peer-reviewed, policy-relevant scientific information to improve decision-making and the work programmes within the Convention.

Acknowledging the significance of scientific assessments when evaluating whether biodiversity aspects are sufficiently integrated into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, strategies and policies, in accordance with Article 6b of the Convention.

Noting the importance to finalize the draft of the first Global Biodiversity Outlook in time for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA.

An Ecosystem approach in the assessment process is inevitable and this should therefore strongly be underlined. Besides biodiversity issues, ecosystem assessment has become a keyword for management of living resources by allowing better scientific advice for respective authorities.

In large-scale assessment projects a co-ordination of needs and objectives of ecosystem-related conventions has to be ensured.

When carrying out scientific assessments, more emphasis should be put on policy recommendations rather than concentrating on mere status reports. Scenarios and options for policy measures should be an important part of such assessments as focused upon in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Emphasising the importance of scientific assessments to ensure that biodiversity issues are integrated into international support programmes such as those of the European Community and the World Bank.

Proposed amendments/changes to the draft recommendations:

The SBSTTA recommends to the Conference of the Parties:

- To adopt a procedure for a formal assessment process that reflects the needs of rapid and other assessments.
- To ensure that scientific assessments within the Convention allow for taking newly emerging urgent issues swiftly into account.
- To ensure that existing experience with assessment processes is fully taken into consideration.
- To ensure that scientific assessments being designed in a way that allows them being used as frameworks for environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessment.

I. The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)

- To fully use the CHM at the national and international level to assist and facilitate the identification of experts in this field and promote scientific and technical co-operation in regards to assessments.
- To strengthen the CHM's capacity to better link the scientific community with policy-makers.
- To develop a database on experiences, information and knowledge on assessments and a search engine to make assessments easily accessible, in order to improve information flow on assessments to stakeholders (scientists, policy makers) and popularise assessments.
- To make information on the rosters of experts available via national, regional and international Clearing-House Mechanisms.
- To update the scientific community on recent policy developments.

- To support the production of scientific assessments by the scientific community through the provision of information on recent policy developments.

II. Parties, governments, inter- and non-governmental organisations, and other actors

- To link strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessment with scientific assessments when developing policies, programmes and projects.
- To provide sufficient resources for policy relevant research needed for scientific assessments.

III. The Executive Secretary

- To request the Executive Secretary to produce a convention-owned scientific journal which cost effectively publishes policy relevant articles making use of the standard review-process of scientific literature, and disseminate the journal through the CHM.

Other remarks:

Some participants expressed concern that large-scale assessment projects are not sufficiently linked to the policy making process. Consequently, an assessment procedure should be kept simple. Not too many human and financial resources should be devoted to join external assessments. Rather SBSTTA should, as far as possible, draw upon the results of external assessments whenever the Convention needs information on certain topics.

An alternative for an assessment process would be a tender process carried out by the Secretariat whenever scientific assessments and other information gathering is required by the Convention. A tender process would allow for delegating the production of required assessments to relevant institutions.

Proposal how to make the assessment process more attractive to scientists

Involve scientific journals, e.g. as follows:

- 1) The Scientific Assessment Panel (SAP) invites a scientific journal to dedicate one issue for such an assessment;
- 2) The SAP subdivides the topics of the planned assessment into units easy to handle;
- 3) By means of the journal scientists will be invited to contribute the topic in the form of invited reviews;
- 4) Contributions are peer-reviewed by the journal and may be published as scientific papers;
- 5) The SAP contributes a summary;

Advantage of this procedure:

- 1) The assessment is published in a referred journal (indexed in abstract databases);
- 2) Since scientists get a peer-reviewed publication it is much more attractive to them;
- 3) The process is more cost-effective, since existing structures are used (a renown journal and its publishers) to prepare the assessment;
- 4) It will be faster than to print an own book;

To ensure that the outcome is targeted towards policy-makers and the general public, authors could be provided with guidelines.

3 Migratory Species and co-operation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Introductory remarks:

An introductory description of structure and instruments of the CMS was given by Mr. Müller-Helmbrecht, secretary of the CMS. The presentation of the role and importance of migratory species and of the CMS programmes, processes, and linkages to the CBD and SBSTTA (referring to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/12) was given by Mr. Glowka, while Ms. Torres summarized SBSTTA activities related to the CMS (e.g. Joint Work Programme, JWP) (referring to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/12/Add.1) and stressed the areas of common interest and the importance of promoting co-operation and synergies between those two legally-binding bodies.

The CMS Secretariat acknowledged the support provided by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for the preparation of the SBSTTA documents on migratory species.

Proposed pre-ambular language for a SBSTTA recommendation and proposed amendments/changes to the draft recommendations:

Recognizing migratory species as globally significant components of biodiversity and also recognizing that CBD Parties have an obligation to conserve and sustainably use migratory species;

Recalling Decision III/21 para. 8 which urges the Parties to ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of *inter alia* migratory species and their habitats are fully incorporated into national strategies, plans and programmes to preserve biological diversity;

Further recalling Decision III/21 para. 10 which calls on national focal points of the CBD and the competent authorities of other conventions including CMS to co-operate on the implementation of these conventions at the national level;

Recognizing the successful example of the joint work programme of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the participants to the European Experts' Meeting on the SBSTTA recommend to the SBSTTA that:

On matters related to integrating migratory species into the CBD Work Programmes:

- *Invite Parties, governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations* to contribute and disseminate through the clearing-house mechanism case studies on migratory species and their habitats relevant to the CBD thematic areas and cross-cutting issues.
- *Request* the SBSTTA to elaborate, in close collaboration with CMS and other relevant organisations, guidance on the integration of migratory species into Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs). And to explore how to continue to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species into CBD thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. This may be achieved *inter alia* through establishing a working group under SBSTTA.

Enhancing the role of CMS in implementing the CBD:

- Amendment on the before last paragraph of the “*Suggested recommendations*” in document SBSTTA/6/12.

The Subsidiary Body may further wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties, with a view to strengthening the role of CMS in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, recognize CMS as the lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range ~~and that the Convention provides an international legal framework through which range States can cooperate on migratory species issues.~~ with a view to strengthening the role of CMS in supporting the CBD's implementation. And recognise that CMS is the primary global forum through which range States can co-operate on migratory species issues.

(~~Text~~ = old text; Text = new suggested text)

- Amendment on the last paragraph of the “*Suggested recommendations*” in document SBSTTA/6/12.

~~The Subsidiary Body may also wish to request the Executive Secretary to finalize and implement the joint work programme between the secretariats of the two conventions for 2001–2002 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/12/Add.1)~~

Adopt the CMS/CBD Joint Work Programme as an excellent basis to enhance co-operation between the two treaties in furtherance of CBD COP Decisions III/21 and V/21 and welcomes its early implementation.

(~~Text~~ = old text to replace; Text = new suggested text)

Additional recommendations:

- *Integrating* migratory species into the CBD Work Programmes.
- *Request Parties* to address the lack of information on the status, values of and threats to migratory species.
- Establishing a roster of experts on migratory species where CBD and CMS can draw on.
- Urge Parties to report through their national reports on the extent to which they address migratory species at the national level, and on their co-operation with other range States.

Other remarks:

Taking into account that not all parties of the CBD are also members of the CMS, however, it was pointed out that national action concerning the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species could be derived from the CBD/CMS Joint Work Programme.

The possibility to include the CMS secretariat in the list of the GTI partners was emphasized by participants.

It was pointed out that there is also a strong need for co-operation of all relevant institutions and authorities related to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species at the national level.

4 The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI)

Introductory remarks:

An introduction to the current state of the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the draft work programme for the GTI prepared by the CBD secretariat (referring to SBSTTA/6/10) and a briefing about the ongoing efforts of the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) were presented by Dr. Häuser.

The participants supported the general outline and content of the available GTI draft work plan, and stressed the need for the provision of appropriate capacities and resources for its implementation. Concern was expressed that the proposed GTI work plan could be too ambitious, particularly with regard to the financial resources required. Participants of the meeting therefore suggested that SBSTTA considers prioritising the proposed GTI actions and also strives for the availability of additional funds for the implementation of all GTI actions, including access to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), specified contributions from individual parties, and support from other possible donors.

It was widely agreed that there is a need for close co-operation between certain planned activities of the GTI, the CHM and the developing GBIF initiative.

Proposed amendments/changes/additions to the “Proposed Programme of Work for the GTI”:

Introduction:

Participants of the meeting supported the overriding importance of capacity building measures for taxonomy as expressed in paragraph 15 (in: 3. *Operational objectives*), and relevant efforts should be included with high priority under all the proposed GTI actions.

- *Operational objective 1, Planned activity 1 (Timing of taxonomic needs assessments)*

In order to keep the momentum of the efforts already undertaken by the CBD secretariat, it is suggested to request parties to deliver a preliminary taxonomic needs assessment by 15th July 2001, in order to be available for discussion at SBSTTA-7. More detailed assessments should then be carried out at the national and regional levels until 31st December 2001.

- *Operational objective 1, Planned activity 4 (Public awareness and education)*

The meeting regarded this planned activity as of central importance which should be targeting both the general public as well as policy decision makers.

- *Operational objective 3 (CBD thematic work programs)*

For the activities proposed under this objective (*planned activities 7-11*), as far as they also promote the taxonomic description of elements of biodiversity (*inter alia* related to *planned activity 2* “*Electronic catalogue of names of known organisms*”), a close co-operation with GBIF should be established in order to avoid duplication of effort and to make best use of available resources.

- *Operational objective 3, Planned activity 8 (marine and coastal biodiversity)*

Relevant stakeholders of taxonomic expertise for this activity include e.g. FishBase, the European Register of Marine Species (ERMS) and the North East Atlantic Taxa database of the Tjärnö Marine Laboratory/Sweden (NEAT) (→ see section internet sites, page 27).

Other remarks:

The SBSTTA bureau is asked to come forward with a proposal for an effective way of co-operation between the CBD and GBIF, and to prepare specific recommendations to COP-6 towards this end as it was felt that GBIF could potentially contribute significantly to the objectives of the CBD.

Participants suggested to ask the Executive Secretary to add the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to the list of organisations which can nominate a representative for the GTI co-ordination mechanism (panel of experts).

Some participants of the meeting expressed great concern about the current status of logistic support to the GTI at the CBD Secretariat and they ask for long term solution of the above problem, as soon as possible.

Participants strongly emphasized the need for co-operation and co-ordination between existing institutions, planned programmes, and activities dealing with taxonomic information gathering and dissemination in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Thus the CHM (for example) should be closely linked with the GBIF from the beginning on.

Some participants stressed that taxonomic data gathered in relation to the GTI should be presented in a way that they may serve as a base for policy making.

Concerning the funding of GTI activities there have been raised several suggestions e.g. the GEF, private internet portals financed through advertisement, national and EU funds, etc. , which were not discussed in detail.

The GTI national focal points were asked to assess the estimated costs for taxonomic data management within their respective country to be added to their national taxonomic needs assessment.

The importance of the GTI for supporting activities concerning Invasive Alien Species was underlined by participants (see *Planned activity 13*).

5 Biological diversity and Climate Change; co-operation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Introductory remarks:

An introduction on the general relationships between climate change and biological diversity (referring to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11) was given by Ms. Georgi, on the interactions between the CBD and the UNFCCC and on the state of negotiation.

Climate change will affect biological diversity and therefore the goods and services provided by ecosystems. On the other side conservation of biological diversity could support mitigation and adaptation measures which have to be developed under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol to meet their objectives. From that reason a close collaboration between both conventions is needed.

General comment:

Participants stressed that within the proposed assessment (*Suggested action by SBSTTA and recommendations (d)*) and its three identified areas (i, ii, iii), special emphasize should be given to the impact of mitigation measures on biological diversity and on the potential of biological diversity to contribute to adaptation measures governed by the UNFCCC. These issues are currently negotiated within the framework of the UNFCCC.

Proposed addition to the draft recommendations:

- *Suggested action by SBSTTA and recommendations (c)*

The preliminary assessment of the inter-linkages between both conventions should include a proposal to establish a joint work plan to avoid duplication of work and use synergies. Further, a common body could be established.

Proposed were a liaison group or a working group that will meet periodically (e.g. twice a year). Inter-linkages with other biodiversity-related conventions should be taken into account as well.

Additional recommendations:

- Even if there is a lot of scientific information within the UNFCCC and the CBD there is nearly no exchange of information – neither at the international level nor at the national level. The exchange of this information and co-operation should start at the national level, but to stimulate this process and to come to a better understanding at both sides the participants felt that an international workshop organized by SBSTTA-CBD and IPCC with experts from both areas would be of crucial importance.
- Other Conventions which tackle the interrelationship between biological diversity and climate change (e.g. Ramsar Convention, CCD, CMS) should be invited to collaborate with the CBD on this issue.
- The CHMs of the CBD and the UNFCCC should be linked on this issue.
- It was pointed out that there is a need to define objectives and develop criteria and indicators of the desirable status/accepted change of biological diversity in respect to climate change. These tools are urgently needed for the consideration of biological diversity aspects in activities undertaken by the UNFCCC. For example the World Conservation Monitoring Centre's (WCMC) study on "Response of Arctic ecosystems to climate change" may serve as a model.
- Regarding the draft terms of reference of the pilot assessment (annex III), the only focus on the service as "carbon sinks" is not enough. Other services of ecosystems with relevance to climate change such as the regulation of the water balance, the modification of the energy balance (albedo) and the control of nutrient cycling (NH₄ and N₂O sinks and sources) should also be included.

Part of this pilot assessment should also be the impact of CBD activities to meet the goals of climate protection and to demonstrate possible synergies.

- The assessments should be linked with the CBD activities on indicators, scientific assessment and the ecosystem approach. They should perform parts of these thematic issues in respect to the problem of climate change.
- As climate change will change vulnerability of ecosystems for biological invasions, close co-operation with experts on alien species is recommended.
- In addition to the assessments there is a need to develop a biodiversity monitoring system including a set of indicators sensitive to climate change and for this purpose, funding for pilot projects has to be sought.

Other remarks:

Biogeographic distribution ranges, relying to a large extent on isotherms, will be severely affected by climate change. Therefore, it is highly desirable to obtain information of the “geospatial dataset” planned within GBIF or other georeferenced taxonomic information systems. They provide appropriate tools to reflect such changes in distribution ranges of species (see also the example of the WCMC study/database mentioned above).

Because predictions on effect of climate change on biological diversity are still difficult the emphasis should be given on prevention measures.

6 Invasive Alien Species (IAS): Progress report on matters identified in decision V/8 and options for future work

Introductory remarks:

The topic was introduced by Dr. Starfinger. He presented *inter alia* the considerations below which reflect outcomes of a related conference at Berlin/Germany ¹ (October 4th-7th, 2000) and which were also discussed at the European platform for biodiversity research strategy “Biology of Invasions – strategic issues for European biodiversity research” (BIM December 4th-6th 2000, Montpellier/France).

The related document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6 was discussed.

The situation concerning biological invasions in Germany was presented as an example:

1. Biological invasions are a prominent issue in the public and scientific debate.
2. Biological invasions result in partly severe conflicts with conservation of biodiversity and economic land-use.
3. Biological invasions are often met by a strong reaction resulting in control efforts.

The need for further work:

4. In Germany, most non-native species are imbedded in anthropogenous vegetation, most are rare, some are invasive but cause no problem as far as known.
→ no general evaluation of aliens as noxious
5. A small proportion of aliens invades near-natural vegetation and causes severe conflicts.
→ factors and processes need to be studied that make an alien species an IAS

¹ Kowarik, I. & U. Starfinger (Eds.) (2001): *Biological Invasions in Germany – A Challenge to Act? Contributions and results of a conference in Berlin, October 4th-7th, 2000.*
BfN-Skripten, Publisher: German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

6. Most species cannot be regarded as noxious on a national level but only in distinct situations.
→ criteria need to be worked out to describe the spatio-temporal variation of invasion impacts
7. Prediction of the impact of a species is difficult and only possible on a single case basis with regional validity
→ anthropogenic factors and their interplay with natural factors need more attention
8. Biological invasions of non-native genotypes of native species have to be taken into consideration as well.
→ how to describe and assess?
9. Alien species that are in the country may become problematic.
→ factors and processes that make a non-native species an IAS
→ role of secondary releases
→ can we control this process?
10. Most control efforts fail.
→ design criteria for monitoring

Proposed amendments/changes to the draft recommendations:

In the discussion following the introduction, in general, the contents of the document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6 were accepted. A number of points were discussed that deserve more attention than they seem to receive at present:

- SBSTTA may wish to include in its agenda the issue of invasive non-native genotypes of native species (also termed “genetic pollution”). The wide use of plant material of alien or unknown provenance in landscaping results in biological invasions at the infra-specific level whose potentially far-reaching effects are generally underestimated.
- SBSTTA may wish to notice that alien species may have beneficial and/or neutral as well as detrimental effects.

- SBSTTA may wish to notice that the “time lags” between the introduction of a species and its subsequent invasion are of considerable importance for the problem of predicting the course and success of individual invasion processes.

Other remarks:

Many issues need expanded research before we will be able to tackle them successfully, e.g.:

- epidemiology of biological invasions
- GISP: early detection, black lists, risks, subspecies levels, domesticated/ cultivated as well as wild ones
- taxonomy of IAS.
- land use change and its effects; etc.

Not only alien species may become problematic: There are native (autochthonous) species (of plants, less so animals) which are in some cases dangerous to other, first of all rare species and communities in different parts of the country. They spread as a consequence of large scale nitrification and acidification (e.g. in central Europe *Calamagrostis epigeios*, *C. villosa*, *Elytrigia repens*, *Bromus inermis*, *Urtica spec.*). They are called expansive. There is the same problem how to manage invasive or expansive biota for practical nature conservation.

Other participants felt that we have to distinguish between introduced species and the spread of naturally occurring species (e.g. agriculture itself maintains populations of for instance *Elytrigia repens*).

Countries should be encouraged to include alien species (and expansive species) in their regular monitoring programmes and to identify national, regional, (global) alien invasive species as well as national, (regional) expansive species.

To cope with unintentional introductions, information of the public on effects of alien species should have priority. Furthermore all sectors in society/administration should be aware of recommendations on aliens.

Information about vectors for invasions is urgently needed.

There is a need for regional co-operation on alien species. According to Article 14 of the CBD countries should be encouraged to set up a system where they – when they identify a new alien species – inform the other countries in the region and initiate action to minimize danger and damage. As a first step exchange of existing information (e.g. national databases on invasive alien species) should be furthered (e.g. via the Clearing-house mechanism of the Convention).

Due to the extensive discussion on terminology concerning IAS during the meeting participants stressed the importance of agreed definitions. On the other hand the process of approaching solutions to pressing/urgent issues should not be slowed down by exhaustive scientific debates. Thus participants strongly supported UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7 *Suggested action and recommendations (c)*.

It was highlighted that predictability of the potential invasiveness of species is generally difficult with the exception of some pests and diseases. Therefore the precautionary approach is advised.

Awareness should be raised that there are often (commercial) interests of particular stakeholders based on AS while societal economies have to cope with negative effects of alien species becoming invasive.

Any comprehensive programme to address invasive alien species problems will need to involve at least the economic sectors as agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, etc.

Elimination of alien subspecies is not necessary or socially acceptable in all cases.

There has been a proposal for priorities in eradication measures which was not discussed in depth:

1. preserve native/autochthonous species
2. preserve ecosystem function
3. preserve diversity

7 International Regulatory Framework on Invasive Alien Species

Introductory remarks:

An overlook about organisations, instruments, and measures concerned with the regulation of IAS was given by Dr. Unger. The aspects of international regulatory framework outlined in the following documents have been discussed:

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7: Comprehensive review on the efficiency and efficacy of existing measures for their prevention, early detection, eradication and control

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8: Options for future work

Proposed amendments/changes to the draft recommendations:

In general, the recommendations in the two documents have been supported, but there are some proposals for amendments in SBSTTA6/8/:

- The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Resolution A.868 (20) 1997 on ships' ballast water is not ratified by a sufficient number of members. Amendment of Recommendation 3: [...] ratify the revised IPPC and the IMO Recommendation.
- Hull fouling is a vector as important as ballast water, but inadequately addressed by IMO Recommendation. Amendment of Recommendation 4: [...] but notes that hull fouling is insufficiently addressed.

Additional recommendations:

- The importance of the Bern Convention, Recommendation No. 57 (adopted 5 Dec 1997) on the introduction of organisms belonging to non-native species into the environment was stressed. Eradication measures for vertebrates as called for the Bern Convention often cause great concern to animal welfare organisations and the public, thereby preventing national implementation. A clear recommendation

from an [international body/instrument][SBSTTA/COP] that addresses the need for eradication of invasive alien vertebrates including mammals in specific situations is required to help to overcome this problem in the framework of relevant initiatives such as the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. It is important to co-operate with other organisations dealing with this topic.

- While plants, pathogens of plants and animals could be covered by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Office International des Épizooties (OIE), there is a gap for other organisms. The European Community regulation on the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) includes one example of a regulation against an invasive species based on possible threats of native species/biodiversity. This EC approach under the CITES needs to be explored further and the reference to CITES has to be included in Recommendation 5 (if appropriate). Furthermore, the possibility of addressing indirect effects of pests (e. g. New Zealand flatworm) has to be explored in the IPPC.
- A recommendation from [an international body/instrument][SBSTTA/COP] to encourage countries to take their responsibility in accordance with the CBD obligations is desired.
- The possibility for the establishment of an International Emergency Fund should be assessed by SBSTTA and if appropriate recommended to the COP.

Other remarks:

The difficulty to predict the likelihood of invasiveness of a particular organism before release or introduction was noted. The hierarchical approach (Interim Guiding Principle 2) was critically discussed (Prevention of entry versus early detection and eradication). Also under European conditions, where many alien species are already under cultivation in horticulture/gardens since many years, decades or even centuries both approaches need to be applied.

As the spread of invasive species after their introduction into a region is not limited by political boundaries, harmonisation of measures within regions (e. g. Europe) is required. In particular this applies to the import border control, the risk assessment for intentional introductions and eradication measures that need to be taken in early stages. Responsibilities should be shared between authorities of the exporting and importing countries.

The countries where a biological invasion occurs first (whether by wild or domestic/cultivated species) have the key responsibility to prevent the spread into the region or other endangered countries. Therefore information facilities (e.g. CHM), communication structures and “early warning systems” are recommended. In addition the country of first invasion should be aware of its responsibility for the success of later eradication measures.

The effectiveness of measures including cost effectiveness was discussed. It is acknowledged that no feasible measures can provide complete protection against the establishment of alien invasive species. Although the ‘precautionary approach’ (Interim Guiding Principle 1) is acknowledged, over-regulation should be avoided taking into account that only a minor percentage of alien species becomes invasive and the number of individuals or propagules highly determines the probability of establishment.

Biological invasions could be the cause for, but also the effect of the alteration of an ecosystem.

Some internet sites related to the topics discussed (in alphabetical order)

Baltic Sea Alien Species:

<http://www.ku.lt/nemo/mainnemo.htm>

Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on biological diversity:

<http://www.biodiv.org/chm>

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):

<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms>

Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD):

<http://www.unccd.int>

European platform for biodiversity research strategy “Biology of Invasions – strategic issues for European biodiversity research” (BIM 2000, Montpellier/France):

<http://bim2000.cefe.cnrs-mop.fr>

European Register of Marine Species (ERMS) – EU Marine Science and Technology Programme (MAST):

<http://erms.biol.soton.ac.uk/>

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF):

<http://www.gbif.org>

<http://www.gbif.net>

Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS):

<http://www.groms.de>

Global Taxonomy Initiative:

<http://www.biodiv.org/spec-tax/gti>

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment:

<http://www.ma-secretariat.org/>

North East Atlantic Taxa database of the Tjärnö Marine Laboratory/Sweden (NEAT):

<http://www.tmbi.gu.se/libdb/libdb.html>

Study on Alien species in Finland:

<http://www.vyh.fi/eng/environ/bdclearh/current.htm>

Glossary of Acronyms

AS	Alien Species
BIM	European platform for biodiversity research strategy “Biology of Invasions – strategic issues for European biodiversity research” (BIM 2000, Montpellier/France)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as the Bonn Convention)
COP	Conference of the Parties
ERMS	European Register of Marine Species (EU – Marine Science and Technology Programme)
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GISP	Global Invasive Species Programme
GTI	Global Taxonomy Initiative
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
NEAT	North East Atlantic Taxa database (Tjärnö Marine Biological Laboratory/Sweden)
OIE	Office International des Épizooties
PIAS	Potentially Invasive Alien Species
SAP	Scientific Assessment Panel
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre

"Expert meeting in preparation of the sixth meeting of SBSTTA"

January 18 - 19, 2001

at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
International Academy for Nature Conservation,
Isle of Vilm, Germany

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Expert meeting in preparation of the sixth meeting of SBSTTA

Programme

Wednesday, 17.01.2001

Arrival on the Isle of Vilm

18.30 *Dinner*

Thursday, 18.01.2001

08.00 *Breakfast*

09.00 Welcome of the participants
Introduction to the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the
International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm
Opening of the meeting

09.30 GERNOT BÄURLE
"Scientific assessments"
- Discussion -

10.45 *Coffee / Tea break*

11.00 LYLE GLOWKA
"Migratory species and cooperation with the Convention on the
conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)"
- Discussion -

12.15 *Lunch*

13.30 Guided tour in the nature reserve of the Isle of Vilm

15.00 *Coffee / Tea break*

15.30 CHRISTOPH HÄUSER
"Global Taxonomy Initiative"
- Discussion -

17.00 *Break*

17.15 BIRGIT GEORGI
"Biological diversity and Climate Change, cooperation with the United
Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)"
- Discussion -

18.30 Contributions to the workshop report (part 1)

19.00 *Reception at the invitation of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany*

evening programme

Friday, 19.01.2001

08.00 *Breakfast*

09.00 UWE STARFINGER
"Alien invasive species:
Progress report on matters identified in decision V/8"
- Discussion -

10.30 *Coffee / Tea break*

11.00 JENS-GEORG UNGER
"Alien invasive species:
comprehensive review of existing measures and instruments"
- Discussion -

12.30 *Lunch*

14.00 UWE STARFINGER
"Alien invasive species: options for future work"
- Discussion -

15.15 *Coffee / Tea break*

16.45 Final discussion, contributions to the workshop report (part 2)

18.00 *Dinner*

evening programme

Saturday, 20.01.2001

08.00 *Breakfast*

All day excursion to Rügen Island

18.00 *Dinner at the hotel "Zum Bodden" in Lauterbach*

Overnight stay in hotels in Lauterbach

Sunday, 21.01.2001

Breakfast

Departure of the participants

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of officers;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Reports:
 - 3.1. Ad hoc technical expert groups;
 - 3.2. Assessment processes;
 - 3.3. Marine and coastal biological diversity;
 - 3.4. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.
4. Invasive alien species.
5. Other substantive issues:
 - 5.1. Scientific assessments;
 - 5.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative;
 - 5.3. Biological diversity and climate change, including cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
 - 5.4. Migratory species and cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
6. Preparation for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:
 - 6.1. Draft provisional agenda;
 - 6.2. Dates and venue.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE SBSTTA

	Plenary	Working Group I	Working Group II
Monday 12 March 2001 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting Item 2. Organizational matters Keynote presentation.		
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Item 3. Reports: Ad hoc technical expert groups Assessment processes Marine and coastal biodiversity Inland water biological diversity		
Tuesday 13 March 2001 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Item 4. Invasive alien species: Presentations from GISP and others; Progress report on case-studies; Progress report on matters addressed in paragraph 14 of decision V/8	Item 5: Other substantive matters 5.1. Scientific assessments
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		Item 4 (continued): Status and trends of invasive alien species	Item 5 (continued): 5.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative
Wednesday 14 March 2001 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Item 4 (continued): Comprehensive review of existing measures and instruments, and identification of gaps and needs: (i) prevention and early detection; (ii) eradication, containment and control	Item 5 (continued): 5.3. Biodiversity and climate change including cooperation with UNFCCC
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		Item 4 (continued): Options for future work, including further elaboration of guiding principles, consideration of need for a legal instrument and development of joint work programmes	Item 5 (continued): 5.4. Migratory species and cooperation with CMS
Thursday 15 March 2001 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Outstanding matters from item 4, "Invasive alien species"	Outstanding matters from item 5, "Other substantive matters"
3 p.m. to 6p.m.		Finalization of work	Finalization of work
Friday 16 March 2001 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Item 6. Preparation for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA 6.1. Draft provisional agenda 6.2. Dates and venue Item 7. Other matters Item 8. Adoption of the report		
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Item 8 (continued) Item 9. Closure of the meeting		