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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Hyderabad, India,
Item 6.2 of the provisional agenda*

COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its sixteenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, on the basis of a note prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2), considered ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA in the light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The Subsidiary Body adopted recommendation XVI/1 on these matters for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

2. The Subsidiary Body recommended to the Conference of the Parties that the Subsidiary Body, within its mandate and following further guidance of the Conference of the Parties, should identify the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan that could be considered by IPBES and should consider the relevant outputs from IPBES, take them into account, and complement them with further work as needed in its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. Regarding the process by which requests would be conveyed from the Convention to IPBES, the Subsidiary Body, in part B of recommendation XVI/1, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, on the basis of views submitted by Parties and other stakeholders, proposals on how requests from the Convention on Biological Diversity would be conveyed to IPBES. Accordingly, the present note, in part II, reviews the submissions and provides proposals for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

3. In part B of recommendation XVI/1, the Subsidiary Body took note of the intersessional work to be undertaken by IPBES and requested the Executive Secretary to contribute to this work and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting. Accordingly, the present note, in part III, summarizes the contributions made by the Executive Secretary to the intersessional process in preparation of the first IPBES Plenary meeting, including the development of an assessment catalogue, elements of a conceptual framework, identification of capacity-building needs and suggestions on the process for submitting and prioritizing requests.

4. In addition to inviting the Executive Secretary to participate in the intersessional process and drawing attention to the schedule for submissions, the IPBES secretariat at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in a letter dated 21 June 2012, drew attention to the decision that the

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

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Chairs of Scientific Subsidiary Bodies of the Conventions would be invited to participate as observers in meetings of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel being established under IPBES.

II. PROCESS FOR CONVEYING REQUESTS FROM THE CONVENTION TO IPBES

5. At its sixteenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice discussed issues, modalities and options for collaboration with IPBES on the basis of the analysis contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on this issue.¹ The Subsidiary Body recommended that the Conference of the Parties decide that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, within its mandate and following further guidance of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Should identify the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan that could be considered by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(b) Should consider the relevant outputs from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and take them into account and complement them with further work as needed in its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

6. The Subsidiary Body further initiated a consultation process on how requests from the Convention would be conveyed to IPBES and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare proposals on that basis.

Views of Parties and observers

7. In response to the notification inviting Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to provide views on the process, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, on how requests from the Convention would be conveyed to IPBES² contributions were received from Armenia, Australia, Canada, European Union, Mexico, Norway and UNEP-WCMC.

8. The following main considerations were highlighted in the submissions:

(a) IPBES has considerable potential to strengthen the scientific basis for effective action related to the Convention;

(b) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a useful, flexible framework to provide orientation for the collaboration with IPBES;

(c) It is most effective to forward requests to IPBES at the earliest possible time. The process for transmitting requests to IPBES should therefore be rapid;

(d) The number of requests to IPBES should be limited. Requests to IPBES that respond to the needs of multiple members of the Platform should therefore be encouraged and requests that respond to the needs of multiple MEAs should be given the highest priority. Meetings of the Chairs of the Scientific Subsidiary Bodies of the biodiversity related conventions (CSAB) may be a useful mechanism through which MEAs can coordinate their submissions;

(e) Duplication between the work of the Subsidiary Body and the work of IPBES should be avoided;

(f) The Subsidiary Body is both a user of information provided by IPBES and a provider of information to IPBES. It should be in a position to consider information provided by IPBES at the earliest possible time.

9. In addition, the Secretariat reviewed the working relationship between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The UNFCCC COP has delegated to its (SBSTA) the responsibility to request assessment reports

¹ Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/official/sbstta-16-02-en.doc>)

² <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2012/ntf-2012-067-ipbes-en.pdf>

and other work from IPCC and to consider the outputs of IPCC. The review is provided in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/14.

Proposals for the process for conveying requests from the Convention to IPBES

10. A procedure for submitting and prioritizing requests to IPBES, which would be consistent with the majority of views expressed in the submissions, could be along the following lines:

(a) The Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting mandates SBSTTA to send requests directly to IPBES on scientific, technical and technological matters which the Conference of the Parties has requested SBSTTA to consider, including new and emerging issues;³

(b) The Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting requests SBSTTA to identify specific areas of collaboration to implement the Convention, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(c) Once the process for submitting and prioritizing requests has been established by IPBES, SBSTTA-17 makes a first request to IPBES

(d) SBSTTA should include issues arising from the collaboration with IPBES as a standing item on its agenda;

(e) A process should be agreed through which Parties and other stakeholders can propose issues relevant to the collaboration with IPBES for consideration by SBSTTA. This could be along the following lines:

- (i) The Executive Secretary notifies Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations (including the other biodiversity-related conventions) and indigenous and local communities of the opportunity to propose requests that could be submitted to IPBES. Such proposals can be submitted at any point in time and should be accompanied with a justification, taking into account the points listed in paragraph 11 of decision IX/29. The proposals can relate to any of the four main functions of IPBES. The Executive Secretary makes the proposals, together with their justifications, available through the CHM;
- (ii) In preparation for each meeting of SBSTTA, the Executive Secretary compiles the proposals received since the last cut-off point and annotates them taking into account the considerations listed in annex I to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2 and as appropriate the criteria used for identifying new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (paragraph 12 of decision IX/29) so as to enable prioritization of proposals. The Executive Secretary also includes in this compilation additional proposals for new and emerging issues submitted in accordance with the procedure laid out in section II of decision IX/29, as well as any issues that might need to be addressed in order to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implement the ongoing programmes of work of the Convention;
- (iii) Before each meeting of SBSTTA the pre-session document containing the compilation of proposals with annotations is made available to the Secretariats of the other biodiversity-related conventions for their views and, as appropriate, prioritization. A teleconference amongst the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions is organized with a view to sharing perspectives and, where possible, coordinating positions. An addendum to the pre-session document summarizing the results of the coordination process is issued shortly before the meeting of SBSTTA;

³ Consistent with Article 23, paragraph (4)(i) and Article 25, paragraphs (2) and (3).

- (iv) SBSTTA considers the proposals, taking into account the views from the other biodiversity-related conventions and decides which ones (if any) should be transmitted to IPBES. SBSTTA requests the Executive Secretary to transmit these proposals to the IPBES Secretariat in accordance with the procedure that will be established by IPBES. The Chair of SBSTTA can provide further explanations through the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel;
- (v) IPBES prioritizes requests in accordance with its procedures and informs the Executive Secretary of how it intends to respond to the requests. SBSTTA schedules consideration of the responses from IPBES in accordance with the time table envisaged by IPBES.

III. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS

Development of an assessment catalogue

11. At its second session, the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services requested the secretariat of the platform to prepare a catalogue of assessments, including relevant thematic and comprehensive assessments at the national, regional, subregional and global levels, building on existing initiatives and drawing on the Platform's gap analysis and other relevant information.

12. In addition, the secretariat of the platform was requested to compile a critical review of the assessments in the catalogue and highlight the implementation of capacity-building activities, the use of conceptual frameworks, the scope of assessments, the experiences with the integration of knowledge systems, the use of scenarios and other tools, the lessons learned with respect to achievement of the policy impact of assessments, and the gaps in knowledge and coverage of assessments and capacity building needs.

13. In his submission to the IPBES secretariat at UNEP, the Executive Secretary drew attention to the database of scientific assessments⁴ being maintained on the CBD website as well as to a note reviewing methods and modalities for the pilot assessments initiated by SBSTTA.⁵ The secretariat will cooperate with the IPBES secretariat with a view to compiling an updated list of assessments relevant to the Convention at global, regional, subregional and national levels, drawing, *inter alia*, on information provided by Parties in their NBSAPs and national reports.

14. In addition, he made reference to a number of key assessments carried out under the Convention, including the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook,⁶ the study on *Biodiversity Scenarios: Projections of 21st century change in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services*,⁷ and a number of assessments relating to the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, marine and coastal biodiversity, inland water biodiversity and mountain biodiversity. The list of assessments with details on the process through which they were prepared, underlying conceptual frameworks, use of scenarios, policy impact and identified capacity needs is contained in the annex to this note.

15. The Executive Secretary highlighted that these assessments were carried out upon request by the Conference of the Parties or its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, thereby ensuring that the assessments would be considered by the appropriate body and that conclusions from them would be drawn for the future work of the Convention. While the assessments had different scopes and followed different modalities, they were carried out in such a way as to ensure that they are scientifically credible, independent, peer-reviewed, and identify uncertainties. They were conducted in partnership with leading scientists and involved competent international organizations and networks, and followed established best scientific practice, including through thorough peer review (mostly two

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/assessments/>

⁵ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-10/official/sbstta-10-07-en.doc>

⁶ <http://www.cbd.int/gbo3/?pub=6667§ion=6720>

⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-50-en.pdf>

successive rounds) and documentation of how peer-review comments were addressed in finalizing the reports.

16. While the assessments mostly made a limited contribution to capacity-building they all identified capacity needs and often recommended specific ways in which these might be addressed (see section on *Identification of capacity-building needs* below for further details).

Elements of a conceptual framework

17. At its second session, the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services requested the secretariat to prepare a draft conceptual framework document informed by the review of assessments and drawing on existing conceptual frameworks.

18. In his contribution to the intersessional process for IPBES, the Executive Secretary drew attention to SBSTTA recommendation XVI/1, recommending that the Conference of the Parties adopt a draft decision in which it “*Considers* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a useful flexible framework for the delivery of the biodiversity agenda at all levels and *invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider how its work plan can contribute to their achievement”.

19. The Executive Secretary further noted that the elaboration of a suitable conceptual framework is of critical importance. The conceptual framework for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, for example, has informed the work of the Convention and has led to further refinements of the driver-pressure-state-impact-response framework, which is also underlying the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity in a modified form. Clearly some of the challenges encountered previously, including the scalability and the integration of different knowledge systems require additional thought and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Secretariat are willing to contribute their experiences in the process of elaborating a conceptual framework for IPBES.

Identification of capacity-building needs

20. Governments and other stakeholders were invited to make submissions on capacity-building needs and suggestions for the activities and partnerships that might address those needs. The secretariat was requested to compile the information and to make it available at the first session of the plenary, together with related information on capacity-building needs identified in the national reports submitted to biodiversity and ecosystem services-related multilateral environmental agreements.

21. In his submission, the Executive Secretary noted that the format for the fourth national report in its concluding section invited observations on the obstacles encountered in achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The capacity needs highlighted therein are listed under the categories suggested by the IPBES Secretariat in annex I.

22. The Executive Secretary also drew attention to the National Capacity Self-Assessment programme supported by the Global Environment Fund⁸ in which countries have identified capacity needs related to biodiversity.

23. It should be noted that there are approaches emerging that are effective in supporting capacity building and strengthening technical and scientific collaboration, including:

- (a) Focusing on sharing lessons and joint learning at the subregional level;
- (b) Coordination of technical and scientific work with underlying policy needs and mechanisms to review the degree to which these needs are addressed;

⁸ <http://www.thegef.org/gef/search/node/ncsa> and http://www.thegef.org/gef/eo_them_NCSA.

(c) Making use of national centres of excellence with capacities beyond the national context (for example members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners for Biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the Friends of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas among others);

(d) Promoting the exchange of data and information through the development and maintenance of appropriate clearing-house mechanisms;

(e) Facilitating the participation of developing country experts in assessments, research and the development and application of policy-relevant tools through small grants and exchanges;

(f) Increased focus on enhancing the observation base for monitoring drawing on existing infrastructures (e.g. satellite based observations) and combining these with field based data and information;

(g) Built-in reviews of the effectiveness of approaches to enable adaptive management and adjustments as capacities increase.

24. The note by the Executive Secretary on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2) contains a more detailed discussion on approaches through which SBSTTA and the Convention process, in collaboration with partners, could enhance the provision of policy-relevant scientific advice.

25. At its fourth meeting, the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, in its recommendation 4/1, recommended that the Conference of the Parties request the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with relevant partner organizations, to develop a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation, and to engage in a process towards establishing a capacity-building network of national and regional centers. There is considerable scope for synergy with efforts proposed to support IPBES, including the proposed BES-Net.⁹

Process for submitting and prioritizing requests

26. Governments, multilateral environmental agreements and other entities were invited to submit their views on the process by which requests might be submitted to the plenary of the Platform, and on the process by which the plenary might prioritize such requests. Based on this input, the IPBES secretariat at UNEP was requested to prepare a draft procedure for consideration by the plenary of the Platform at its first session.

27. Discussions concerning how the requests from the Convention on Biological Diversity may be conveyed to IPBES are summarized in Part II of this note, above.

⁹ BES-Net (“Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – Network) is a proposal for developing a capacity-building network for the interface between science, policy and implementation that responds to the needs of developing countries prepared by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. See UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/14 available at www.ipbes.net.

Annex I

CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS RELATED TO IPBES IDENTIFIED IN THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORTS

Access to financial resources, and matching them with identified needs

- Financial and physical resources management
- Sustainable financing including new and innovative funding mechanisms

Building capacity to identify and address knowledge gaps

- Identification, prevention and management of invasive alien species
- Fire prevention and management
- Development of biodiversity indicators

Building capacity to carry out assessments at national and subregional levels

- Natural resources, socioeconomic and cultural assessment
- Management effectiveness assessment
- National ecosystems/biodiversity assessments
- Assessment of climate change adaptation options

Building capacity to develop and use policy-relevant tools and methodologies

- Tools and capacity for river basin and watershed management
- Tools and capacity for fisheries planning, management and enforcement
- Effective policies and application of impact assessment approaches (EIA and SEA)
- Policy analysis/assessment and reform
- Harmonization of sub-national environment policies
- Development and implementation of biosafety policy
- Environmental accounting
- Biodiversity/ecosystem valuation
- Systematic integration of biodiversity concerns in policies, programmes and actions of the various sectors
- Cross-sectoral coordination, planning and policy formulation and implementation to reduce conflicts and gaps

Supporting mechanisms, networks and tools

- Access to and participation in biodiversity information networks
- Enhancement of databases on natural resources managed by public institutions through training, frequent updates of equipment and contents, and systematic strengthening of institutional relations, allowing the integration of primary information sources and existing databases
- Inadequacy of information services e.g. libraries and internet service

Access to data, information and knowledge

- Establishment of ecological baselines and a long term monitoring system
- Monitoring effectiveness of NBSAP implementation

- Approaches to conserve traditional knowledge

In addition, the assessments listed in the annex to this note revealed gaps in knowledge and capacity-building needs, including with regard to:

- Assessment of biodiversity change and scenario analyses to identify policy options for addressing undesired change
- Coverage of marine biodiversity data and improvement of relevant models
- Tools to evaluate the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities and those of biodiversity conservation activities
- Guidance on the design and implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation
- Understanding the key hydrological functions of ecosystems and how they influence water resources challenges
- The economics of “natural infrastructure” solutions to water management
- Development and use geo-referenced biodiversity data for integrated analysis and spatial visualization of biodiversity information
- Capacity to mobilize, host and share biodiversity data

*Annex II***KEY ASSESSMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THEIR MAIN CHARACTERISTICS**

Assessment	Characteristics of assessment process and outcome	Underlying conceptual framework	Use of scenarios and other tools	Policy impact	Capacity needs identified and addressed
<i>Comprehensive assessments</i>					
GBO-3 ¹⁰	GBO-3 was based on peer reviewed scientific literature, national reports, work on indicators by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and a commissioned review of models and scenarios. Each part of the final report was reviewed at least twice. Its preparation was overseen by an independent advisory group. The report identifies uncertainties. Preparation process and impact were independently evaluated. ¹¹	Strategic Plan (decision VI/26) and framework for evaluating progress (decisions VII/30 and VIII/15)	Biodiversity Scenarios: Projections of 21st Century Change in Biodiversity and Associated Ecosystem Services - A Technical Report for the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 ¹²	COP welcomed the report and took note of the conclusions (decision X/4), which also provided the rationale for Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2)	The preparation process revealed the need to strengthen the ability of countries to assess biodiversity change and to develop policies that are capable of addressing undesired change. Improved capacities to conduct national/sub-regional scenario analysis would help to support decision-making. The GBO-3 process did not contribute to capacity-building in a significant way.
GBO-4 ¹³	The preparation process for GBO-4 has only started. An independent advisory group is being established. ¹⁴ The document will be peer-reviewed prior to its finalization	Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2)	Planned, building on the experience of GBO-3	TBD	The capacity needs identified through the GBO-3 process persist. A series of regional workshops is planned to assist countries in the preparation of their fifth national reports, identifying relevant information for possible use in GBO-4, and on the application of regional scenarios to support decision-making.

¹⁰ www.cbd.int/gbo3

¹¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-01-en.doc>

¹² <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-50-en.pdf>

¹³ www.cbd.int/gbo4

¹⁴ See <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/official/sbstta-16-03-en.doc> and <http://www.cbd.int/recommendations/?id=13051>

Assessment	Characteristics of assessment process and outcome	Underlying conceptual framework	Use of scenarios and other tools	Policy impact	Capacity needs identified and addressed
<i>Assessments of marine and coastal biodiversity</i>					
Series of regional workshops for describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) ¹⁵	Description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the application of the Azores scientific criteria in annex I of decision IX/20 ¹⁶ as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the Azores scientific criteria.	Criteria for EBSAs (decision IX/20 Annex 1)	Various, including GIS	TBD. (Once endorsed by the CBD COP, as envisaged in decision X/29, descriptions will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, as well as relevant international organizations, Parties and other Governments.	Need to improve data coverage; need to improve compatibility of data sets. The regional workshops on the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas contribute to capacity building, by providing exchange of information, sharing of data and through the compilation and peer-review of the report.
Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Fertilization on Marine Biodiversity ¹⁷	The assessment is based on a review and synthesis of existing literature and other scientific information carried out by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, followed by a peer review by Parties, other Governments and organizations as well as the inputs from	N/A	Review of scenarios and models underlying fertilization experiments.	COP welcomed the report and provided guidance on ways to fill gaps in knowledge (decision X/29 (para 13 (e) and 57 to 62))	Need to improve models underlying fertilization experiments. The assessment did not contribute to capacity-building in a significant way.

¹⁵ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/official/sbstta-16-05-en.doc> and <http://www.cbd.int/recommendations/?id=13053>

¹⁶ <http://www.cbd.int/marine/doc/azores-brochure-en.pdf>

¹⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-45-en.pdf>

Assessment	Characteristics of assessment process and outcome	Underlying conceptual framework	Use of scenarios and other tools	Policy impact	Capacity needs identified and addressed
	international scientific experts and was then considered by SBSTTA-14. The report identifies uncertainties.				
Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity ¹⁸	The assessment is based on a review and synthesis of existing literature and other scientific information jointly carried out by SCBD and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, followed by a peer review by Parties, other Governments and organizations as well as the inputs from international scientific experts and was then considered by SBSTTA-14. The report identifies uncertainties.	N/A	Review of IPCC scenarios (Special Report on Emissions Scenarios – SRES) and circulation models of the IPCC (IPCC IS92a).	COP welcomed the report, took note of conclusions and established processes to monitor and assess the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity (decision X/29 (para 63 to 67))	Need to better understand impacts of ocean acidification on calcification of different organisms and life stages, as well as on the communities of which they are part. The assessment did not contribute to capacity-building in a significant way.
Scientific Synthesis on the Impacts of Underwater Noise on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Habitats ¹⁹	The assessment is based on a review and synthesis of existing literature and other scientific information by a technical expert commissioned by SCBD, followed by a peer review by Parties, other Governments and organizations as well as the inputs from international scientific experts and was then considered by SBSTTA-16. The report identifies gaps in knowledge and uncertainties.	N/A	N/A	SBSTTA recommended that COP welcome the report, took note of key conclusions, and recommends an expert process to improve and share knowledge and develop further guidance (recommendation XVI/5 (paras. 14 to 20))	Need for a consistent terminology to describe underwater noise and need to fill gaps in existing guidance. The assessment did not contribute to capacity-building in a significant way.

¹⁸ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-46-en.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-12-en.doc>

Assessment	Characteristics of assessment process and outcome	Underlying conceptual framework	Use of scenarios and other tools	Policy impact	Capacity needs identified and addressed
<i>Assessments of links between biodiversity and climate change</i>					
Interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change ²⁰	The assessment draws on a technical paper on climate change and biodiversity prepared by IPCC, a review of literature including the IPCC Third Assessment Report, the Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry and available literature not covered by previous IPCC assessments, carried out by an ad hoc technical expert group through three meetings and intersessional work. The draft report was submitted for peer-review to Governments using the channels of both the CBD and UNFCCC, and to the wider scientific community. At its third meeting, the expert group considered and took into account the comments of the reviewers to finalize its report.	N/A	Review of IPCC scenarios (third assessment report)	SBSTTA welcomed the report, took note of key conclusions, asked for the report to be brought to the attention of SBSTA of UNFCCC and provided detailed guidance to COP on the implications of the findings (rec. IX/11) which formed the basis of COP decision VII/15. SBSTA of UNFCCC noted the report and recommended its use by UNFCCC Parties.	Need for additional guidance and tools that can be used to evaluate the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities and those of biodiversity conservation activities. Additional details are summarized in the section on <i>Lessons learned from case-studies</i> (page 11-13 of the report). The participation of experts from the biodiversity and the climate community increased mutual understanding of the processes and the respective status of knowledge.
Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation ²¹	The assessment provides an update of earlier work in the light of new evidence. It draws on the report on Interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change, ²² submissions by Parties and a review and synthesis of available literature carried out by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and was carried out by an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) through three	N/A	Review of IPCC scenarios, including the Fourth Assessment Report	SBSTTA 14 considered the report as part of the in-depth review of the work on biodiversity and climate change and prepared Rec. XIV/5 on the basis of which COP took note of the report and prepared guidance below on	Knowledge and information gaps that prevent the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities are identified by Parties through their national reports. Specifically there is need for guidance on the design and implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation. The participation of experts from the

²⁰ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf>

²² <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf>

Assessment	Characteristics of assessment process and outcome	Underlying conceptual framework	Use of scenarios and other tools	Policy impact	Capacity needs identified and addressed
	meetings and intersessional work. The draft report was submitted for peer-review to Governments and to the wider scientific community. At its third meeting, the expert group considered and took into account the comments of the reviewers to finalize its report. The draft report, including main messages as compiled by the AHTEG was initially made available to participants of UNFCCC COP-14 and, an expanded UNFCCC SBSTA-30.			ways to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation (decision X/33).	biodiversity and the climate community increased mutual understanding of the processes and the respective status of knowledge.
Impacts of climate-related geoengineering on biological diversity ²³	The assessment compiles and synthesizes available scientific information on the possible impacts of a range of geoengineering techniques on biodiversity and has been prepared by a group of experts and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account comments from two rounds of review by Parties, experts and stakeholders. Uncertainties were highlighted throughout the report.	N/A	Climate-change scenarios provide relevant controls for assessing the risks and benefits of geoengineering, including the implications for biodiversity	Through recommendation XVI/9 SBSTTA recommended that COP takes note of the report on the impacts of climate related geoengineering on biological diversity and of the main messages, ²⁴ and that relevant sections be brought to the attention of related organizations and processes, and that additional work be undertaken in collaboration with partners.	In addition to the technical questions the report highlighted in particular the need to better understand the social, economic, cultural and ethical considerations of climate-related geoengineering.

²³ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-28-en.doc>

²⁴ These are contained in the note UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/10 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/official/sbstta-16-10-en.pdf>)

Assessment	Characteristics of assessment process and outcome	Underlying conceptual framework	Use of scenarios and other tools	Policy impact	Capacity needs identified and addressed
Regulatory framework for climate-related geoengineering relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity ²⁵	This study has been prepared by a technical expert commissioned by SCBD. Review comments and additional contributions from a group of experts and two rounds of review by Parties, experts and stakeholders were taken into account in the final version.	The existing regulatory framework, including general customary rules of international law and specific international treaties.	N/A	Through recommendation XVI/9 SBSTTA recommended that COP takes note of the report on the regulatory framework for climate-related geoengineering and of the main messages, ²⁶ and called for further work to be undertaken on this matter.	There is a need to address the gaps in the current regulatory framework for climate-related geoengineering
<i>Assessment related to biodiversity of inland waters</i>					
Expert group on the role of biodiversity in sustaining the water cycle (convened by SCBD in cooperation with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention) ²⁷	Impartial, independent review of scientific peer reviewed literature on the role and functions of biodiversity re. sustaining the water cycle and the delivery of water-related ecosystem services. Sections of the report and final report peer-reviewed. Sections on: wetlands, grasslands, forests, cities, institutions and enabling mechanisms. The report identifies levels of certainty and knowledge gaps.	The water cycle as a bio-physical phenomenon; Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as a framework for relevant ecosystem services.	No. Review of current knowledge only.	To be considered at CBD COP-11 (document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/30 and UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/2).	Considerable institutional constraints and capacity needs identified. Follow-on work recommended focusing on coordination, awareness raising and capacity development. Key technical capacity-building areas: understanding the key hydrological functions of ecosystems and how they influence, and can therefore be used as solutions to, water resources challenges (including managing the quantity and quality of water available); and the economics of “natural infrastructure” solutions to water management.

²⁵ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-29-en.doc>

²⁶ These are contained in the note UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/10 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/official/sbstta-16-10-en.pdf>)

²⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/information/cop-11-inf-02-en.doc>

<i>Assessment related to mountain biodiversity</i>					
Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment ²⁸	The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment is an ongoing programme on research, inventorying and monitoring mountain biodiversity, guided by a scientific steering committee.	N/A	IPCC scenarios	COP, in decision X/30 took note of progress made by the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment and provided guidance on further work	<p>Need to increase capacity to develop and use geo-referenced biodiversity data for integrated analysis and spatial visualization of biodiversity information in relation to climate, land use, physiography and other important parameters.</p> <p>Need to increase capacity for hosting regional platforms for mountain biodiversity information for various mountain ranges (e.g the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, the Andes etc.</p> <p>Need to increase capacity to provide easy and open access to biodiversity information of via GBIF/GMBA Mountain Biodiversity Portal and the Mountain Geo-Portals of other institutes as a gateway to biodiversity information with meta database.</p>

²⁸ <http://www.gmba.unibas.ch/index/index.htm>