



26 February 2002

NOTIFICATION

First meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group Meeting on dry and sub-humid lands

Montreal, Canada, 18 - 22 March 2002

At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity endorsed the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, as contained in annex I of Decision V/23. To assist with the implementation of the programme of work, COP requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to establish an ad hoc technical group on this topic. The tasks to be undertaken by this group are:

- Consolidate and assess information on the status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, on the possible establishment of an international network of dry and sub-humid areas of particular value for biodiversity, on indicators, on processes affecting biodiversity, on global benefits derived from biodiversity, and on the socio-economic impacts of its loss, including the interrelationship between biodiversity and poverty;
- Assess the progress and the effects of the specific measures that have been taken for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, for resource management and for the support of sustainable livelihoods;
- Assess international priorities set up at the regional and global levels and make proposals for expected outcomes, further activities, possible actors that may implement them, and timetables for action.

The first meeting of the ad hoc technical expert group on dry and sub-humid lands will be held from 18 to 22 March 2002 in the premises of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada.

Further to the notification dated 18 January 2002 inviting Parties to the Convention to nominate experts in the field of dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity, I am pleased to convey herewith the composition of the group of selected experts (Annex I). The selection of experts was based on nominations by the Parties and organizations, taking into account the participants' demonstrated expertise and experience in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah

To: National Focal Points of the CBD



ecosystems, geographical distribution and gender balance. A number of experts were selected jointly with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The provisional agenda of the first meeting is provided in Annex II and is available on the Secretariat's website at www.biodiv.org

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

Annex I

Selected experts for the ad hoc technical expert group on dry and sub-humid lands (Montreal, Canada, 18 – 22 March 2002)

Africa

Mr. Lindsay CHONG-SENG (Seychelles)
Ms. Delphine OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)
Mr. Edison WOTHO (Botswana)

Asia

Dr. G.V. Sarat BABU (India)
Dr. B.M.P. SINGHAKUMARA (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Ys Borjigdkhan ADYASUREN (Mongolia)

Latin America and Caribbean

Mr. Leon Stanley SMITH (The Bahamas)
Prof. J. F. DI STEFANO G. (Costa Rica)
Dr. Víctor CANTÓN (Uruguay)

Central and Eastern Europe

Ms. Dalia GUDAITINE-HOLIMAN (Lithuania)
Dr. Pavel NOVAK (Czech Republic)

WEOG

Dr. Gustave GINTZBURGER (France)
Dr. Friedrich EHRENDORFER (Austria)
Mr. Roger SMITH (United Kingdom)
Dr. Fernando VALLADARES (Spain)

Indigenous and Local Communities

Mr. Sem Taukondjo SHIKONGO (Namibia)
Name to be confirmed, from Canada, namely British Columbia or Saskatchewan province.

SBSTTA Bureau

Dr. Lily RODRIGUEZ from Peru

Resource Person:

Prof. Willem VAN COTTHEM (Belgium)

Observers from the following organizations were invited:

Comité Permanent inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (INSAH)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank Group
International Center for Agricultural Research In the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
IUCN The World Conservation Union
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (DESA)
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Bank Group
World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Annex II

DRAFT 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. Substantive issues
 - 3.1. Consolidation and assessment of information on the following issues:
 - 3.1.1. Status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands,
 - 3.1.2. Possible establishment of an international network of dry and sub-humid areas of particular value for biodiversity;
 - 3.1.3. Indicators of the status and trends of biological diversity; monitoring and early warning systems;
 - 3.1.4. Processes affecting biodiversity;
 - 3.1.5. Global benefits derived from biodiversity and valuation of biodiversity;
 - 3.1.6. Socio-economic impacts of biodiversity loss, including the interrelationship between biodiversity and poverty.
 - 3.2. Assessment of the progress and the effects of the specific measures
 - 3.2.1. Measures been taken for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (including the role of *ex-situ* conservation),
 - 3.2.2. Measures taken for resource management (including preventive measures);
 - 3.2.3. Measures taken for the support of sustainable livelihoods;
 - 3.2.4. Consideration of capacity development, and the need of some Parties for assistance in seeking resources to develop proposals.
 - 3.3. Priority setting
 - 3.3.1. Assessment of international priorities set up at the regional and global levels;
 - 3.3.2. Proposals for expected outcomes, further activities, possible actors that may implement them, and timetables for action.
4. Scoping of inter-sessional work and preparation for the second meeting:
 - 4.1. Consideration of the scope of work for addressing the gaps identified under agenda item 3;
 - 4.2. Consideration of modalities to undertake such work in the inter-sessional period and preparations for the second meeting of the Group
5. Other matters.

6. Adoption of the report.
7. Closure of the meeting.
