



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
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Eighteenth meeting
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Item 9.3 of the provisional agenda*

**COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS OF INFORMATION RELATED TO MEASURES
UNDERTAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDANCE ON CLIMATE-RELATED
GEOENGINEERING CONTAINED IN SUBPARAGRAPH 8 (W) OF DECISION X/33**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body, a compilation of submissions on measures undertaken in accordance with the guidance on climate-related geoengineering contained in subparagraph 8 (w) of decision X/33.
2. The Executive Secretary, on 12 November 2013, sent notification 2013-102 (Ref. no. SCBD/SAM/SS/ac/82893) inviting Parties to submit information, for example, on:
 - (a) General measures they have undertaken to implement subparagraph 8 (w), in particular “to ensure [...] that no climate-related geo-engineering activities that may affect biodiversity take place, until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities and appropriate consideration of the associated risks for the environment and biodiversity and associated social, economic and cultural impacts”; and/or
 - (b) General measures that address the exception for small-scale scientific research studies contained in paragraph 8 (w) and any information on their application to specific cases.
3. Two Parties submitted information in response to this notification: Estonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In addition, a submission from the French “Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB)” was received. The present note compiles the submissions received. The submissions are also available on the website of the Convention at <http://www.cbd.int/climate/geoengineering/>.
4. The submissions are presented in the form and language in which they were received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/1.

Submission from Estonia (received on 25 November 2013)

As a response to CBD notification no. 2013-102, Estonia would like to inform the Executive Secretary that there are currently no large-scale scientific studies underway in Estonia in accordance with CBD COP decision X/33 paragraph 8(w) or their application to specific areas. All kind of geo-engineering project as a project which potentially may have important environmental impact, must follow the rules set in Nation Environmental Impact Assessment Act before it is allowed to make start with any kind of activities, which change the current situation.

Activity licenses in the case of which an EIA may be initiated:

- building permit;
- permit for use of construction works;
- integrated environmental permit;
- permit for the special use of water;
- ambient air pollution permit;
- waste permit;
- hazardous waste handling license;
- radiation practice permit;
- natural resource extraction permit;
- prospecting permit;
- geological investigation permit;
- other document permitting planned activity in relation to a presumably material environmental impact.

You may order an EIA from a person or enterprise that holds an EIA license, and employees an expert who holds a license.

Objective of an EIA

To give decision-makers information on the environmental impact on all realistic alternatives and to issue a proposal regarding the most suitable solution.

Cross-border assessments

Upon initiating every EIA, you should verify whether your activity may have a material impact beyond Estonian borders. This is also the case when implementing a strategic planning document. In the case of a cross-border environmental impact, the initiator of the assessment must promptly notify the Ministry of the Environment. If the country impacted desires, the representative of the country will be allowed to take part in the proceedings on the EIA.

Natura assessment

Potential environmental impact on Natura 2000 network of nature preserves is assessed pursuant to the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act. Natura assessments are generally similar to EIA procedure, but exceptions must be taken into consideration upon deciding on the activity. What is important in the case of Natura assessments is that above all the impact on the protected site is assessed.

Initiating an EIA

An EIA may be initiated if:

- you are seeking an activity license and the activity you are seeking the license for will presumably lead to material environmental impact;
- you are seeking amendment of an activity license and the activity you are seeking the license for will presumably lead to material environmental impact;
- you are planning an activity that will either by itself or in conjunction with other activities presumably lead to material impacts of the Natura 2000 network area.

Grounds for initiating an EIA:

- list of activities established by legal acts in the case of which assessment is obligatory
- set forth in legal acts if it is found as a result of a preliminary assessment that the activity may lead to material environmental impact (the decision is made by way of deliberation)
- public pressure
- free will on the part of the entrepreneur