



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/DC/KC/CRm/80196

21 June 2012

NOTIFICATION

Regional Workshop on the Inter-Linkages between Human Health and Biodiversity in the Americas Manaus, Brazil (4-7 September 2012)

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its tenth meeting in October 2010, in paragraph 17 of decision X/20, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further strengthen collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), and other relevant organizations and initiatives, to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in health programmes and plans and to investigate how implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 can best support efforts to address global health issues, including avenues for bridging gaps between work on the impacts of climate change on public health and the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Accordingly, the Secretariat, with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan and in collaboration with the WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), is organizing a regional capacity-building workshop for Parties from the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and North America, to be held on 4-7 September 2012 in Manaus, Brazil.

This workshop will provide a forum for Parties and experts from the health and biodiversity sectors to (i) discuss the implementation of the Strategic Plan, in particular as it relates to health issues (ii) discuss regional best practices in terms of incorporating biodiversity and health considerations in national and regional biodiversity conservation programmes (iii) strengthen capacity and identify further capacity needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan (iv) identify possible joint activities to achieve health and biodiversity co-benefits for consideration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and (v) promote transboundary/regional cooperation and support networks on health and biodiversity issues and strategies. The workshop will be held in Spanish and English.

By this notification, I am pleased to invite your Government to **nominate one official or expert** responsible for the implementation of the Convention to participate in this workshop. In addition, nominations from the health sector will also be sought, in collaboration with WHO and PAHO.

The nomination should be in the form of an official signed letter addressed to the CBD Executive Secretary signed by yourself or a senior government official, and it should contain the nominee's name, and full contact information, including email addresses. Unless the nominee is the current SBSTTA or CBD national focal point the letter should also be accompanied by a *Curriculum Vitae*, clearly indicating the areas of expertise of the nominated participant. This documentation can be either scanned and emailed to secretariat@cbd.int or faxed to the Secretariat at 514-288-6588, **no later than 20 July 2012**.

To: CBD National Focal Points of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and North America



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Nominated experts should have:

- Working knowledge of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Expertise on national and regional environmental policy and networks;
- Qualifications in a relevant field;
- The ability to actively contribute to the discussions given strategic knowledge and practical experiences;
- The ability to share meeting outcomes with relevant colleagues and transfer the knowledge gained into concrete actions at the national and, if possible, regional levels; and
- Availability to support and follow-up on the outcomes of the workshop.

The Secretariat will be in a position to finance the participation of a limited number of experts from eligible countries. Please note that priority for funding will be given to eligible countries with nominations received from both the Ministry responsible for biodiversity and environment *and* from the Ministry for health. We encourage you to submit your nominations early, **before the deadline of 20 July, 2012.**

Officially designated representatives selected to receive financial support to participate in this workshop will be notified after the closing date, and will be asked to submit their passport information.

I look forward to receiving your early nominations and thank you in advance for your cooperation and for your continued support for the work of the Convention.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary