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19 October 2016

NOTIFICATION

Call for Requests for Assistance under the Bio-Bridge Initiative

Madam/Sir,

As you may recall, at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Government of the Republic of Korea launched the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) under the Convention and its Protocols with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. BBI seeks to link Parties that have technical and scientific needs with Parties and institutions that can provide the required technical assistance.

The first phase of BBI has focused on engaging relevant partners, developing an Action Plan for 2017-2020 and establishing relevant institutional structures, tools and mechanisms to support and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation. During this phase, the Secretariat has used pilot projects to test approaches and tools for technical and scientific cooperation in preparation for the operational phase of BBI. Additional information about the pilot projects is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/biobridge/pilot.shtml>.

In preparation for the next phase of BBI, I am pleased to invite developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to submit requests for assistance using the form available at: <http://www.cbd.int/biobridge/request.shtml>. Parties in a position to do so may wish to complete the entire form, including the non-mandatory fields. A fully completed form would constitute a pre-project proposal, which will be considered by the BBI Project Review Committee or submitted to potential technical assistance providers. The pre-proposal must be aligned with the vision and mission of BBI and should take into account the following criteria:

- (i) Seek to establish long-term cooperation between two or more governments on technical and scientific matters, including joint research and development of technical and scientific solutions;
- (ii) Facilitate the transfer of technologies and/or exchange of specialized knowledge and know-how through institutional collaboration;
- (iii) Demonstrate linkages to priorities identified in the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and cover more than one Aichi Biodiversity Target;
- (iv) Ensure the participation of major stakeholders, such as women and indigenous peoples and local communities; and
- (v) Demonstrate potential for scaling-up and replication.

The requests for assistance should be submitted to the Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int) as soon as possible but no later than **18 November 2016**. Given the limited financial resources available, requests with confirmed or pledged co-financing are strongly encouraged.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

To: CBD, ABS, CPB, SBSTTA National Focal Points



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