

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JPLD/DH

4 April 2001

**NOTIFICATION**

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Subject: Peer review of the documents produced by the *ad hoc* technical expert group on forest biological diversity.**

At its fifth meeting, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 26 May 2000, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision V/4 on forest biological diversity.

In paragraph 4 of the decision, the COP decided to establish an *ad hoc* technical expert group (AHTEG) on forest biological diversity to assist the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in its work on forest biological diversity with clearly defined terms of reference set out in the annex to decision V/4.

In accordance with the terms of reference outlined in decision V/4 on forest biological diversity, the group should (i) provide advice on scientific programs and international cooperation in research and development; (ii) carry out a review of available information on the status and trends of, and major threats to, forest biological diversity and identify significant gaps in that information; (iii) identify options; and (iv) identify innovative, efficient and state-of-art technologies and know-how.

The AHTEG held its first meeting in Montreal, Canada, from 27 November to 1 December 2000 and will hold its second meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom from 23 to 27 April 2001.

During its first meeting, the AHTEG concentrated its work on the status and trends of, and major threats to, forest biological diversity based on the background document prepared by the Secretariat. It concluded its meeting by adopting a programme of work for the intersessional period aimed at developing this document.

To: National Focal Points of the CBD

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United Nations  
Environment  
ProgrammeTel.: (514) 288-2220  
Fax: (514) 288-6588website: [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)  
e-mail: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org)World Trade Centre Building  
393 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 300  
Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9

The group has now drafted the different chapters of the document which it will further discuss during its second meeting. They are the following:

- Chapter I: Status of forest biological diversity
- Chapter II: Overview of forest ecosystems functioning and related goods and services
- Chapter III: Major threats to forest biological diversity
- Chapter IV: Trends of forest biological diversity
- Chapter V: Initiatives addressing forest biological diversity.

The document is opened for comments by the scientific community at large as part of a peer review process. The Secretariat has also specifically requested several experts to take part in this peer review process. The list of these experts is attached.

The purpose of the peer review is to ascertain the quality of the scientific information provided and to obtain possible additional elements which should be included in the documentation.

Experts are invited to send comments to the Secretariat as soon as possible as the peer-review process will be completed by 15 April 2001.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

**List of experts for Peer Review of AHTEG documents**

**Chapter 1.**

Mr. Ron Ayling (Canada)  
Ms. Anoja Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka)  
Mr. Oteng Yeboah (Ghana)  
Dr. Virgilio Viana (Brazil)  
Mr. Alexander V. Pougatchevski (Belarus)

**Chapter 2.**

Mr. Alberto Jaime Macucule ( Mozambique)  
Prof. Herman Ellenberg (Germany)  
Dr. Antonio Carlos do Prado (Brazil)  
Mr. Mohammed Osman Gani (Bangladesh)  
Prof. Julius Novotny (Slovakia)

**Chapter 3 and chapter 4**

Mr. Mikael Noren (Sweden)  
Prof Alexander Sergeevich Isaev (Russian Federation)  
Dr. Perry S. Ong (Philippines)  
Kahana Lukumbuzua (Tanzania)  
Prof. Armasto (Chile)

**Chapter 5**

FAO, UNEP, UNDP, ITTO, GEF, World Bank, UNESCO, CIFOR, IUFRO, UNFF Secretariat, UNEP/WCMC, WWF, UICN.