



Ref: SCBD/SEL/VN

29 November 2001

Dear Madam/Sir,

Notification: Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing

The purpose of this notification is to invite Parties to take specific actions to implement recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing at its meeting in Bonn, from 22-26 October 2001.

The report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing UNEP/CBD/COP/6/6 was mailed out to national focal points on 9 November 2001. It is also available on the CBD website at the following address: www.biodiv.org, under documents for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Issues requiring action by Parties are addressed in the following sections:

A. Open-ended Expert Workshop on Capacity-building

The Working Group requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to convene, as soon as possible and depending on voluntary financial contributions by Parties and other donors and taking into account the global calendar of meetings, an open-ended expert workshop on capacity-building for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. The purpose of the workshop is to further develop draft elements for an Action Plan on Capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing. The workshop will submit its report to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In this respect, Parties and Governments were urged to provide financial contributions to support the convening of the open-ended experts workshop.

In addition, Parties, Governments, relevant international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector were invited to submit to the Executive Secretary, as soon as practicable, information regarding capacity-building needs, priorities and existing initiatives for capacity-building for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

This information will then be compiled and a report prepared by the Secretariat to assist the Workshop in its deliberations. It is planned to hold the Workshop in early March at a venue yet to be determined.

To: CBD National Focal Points



Requested actions by Parties

- Parties are invited to inform the Secretariat of any **financial contribution** they are willing to make for the organisation of this workshop as soon as practicable.
- Parties are invited to submit relevant **information regarding their needs, priorities and existing capacity-building initiatives on access and benefit-sharing** to the Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than **31 December 2001**, on the basis of the attached questionnaire to allow the Secretariat to prepare background documentation in good time for the workshop.

B. Draft elements to be developed regarding the Use of Terms under paragraph 6 of the Draft Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising out of their Utilization

The Working Group recommended that the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, convene a group of ten experts nominated by Parties, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation, to develop draft elements of a decision on the use of terms in the Bonn Guidelines (e.g. paragraph 6 of the draft Bonn Guidelines). It is expected that the experts will work initially through electronic communications with a view to elaborating elements of a decision on the use of terms for the Conference of the Parties.

Requested action by Parties:

- Interested Parties are hereby invited to nominate an expert and to communicate his/her name and curriculum vitae to the Secretariat **no later than 31 December 2001**. Based on nominations received, the Secretariat will select ten experts on the basis of their expertise and the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution, and with due regard to gender balance.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the work of the Convention.

Accept Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF PARTIES

The purpose of this questionnaire is to identify the needs and priorities of Parties and stakeholders in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

I. On the basis of the following list of key areas for capacity-building in relation to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing:

- Development of national access and benefit-sharing policy, administrative and legislative measures
 - Elaboration and implementation of contractual agreements on ABS
 - Development of information systems for information management and exchange
 - Assessment, inventory and monitoring of biological resources and traditional knowledge, including taxonomic capacity
 - Valuation of genetic resources and market information, including production and marketing strategies
 - Development of national research and development facilities in scientific and technical areas
 - Means for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources
 - Funding and resource management
 - Monitoring and assessment of capacity building initiatives
- 1) Please indicate priority areas requiring capacity-building/strengthening in your country, to assist with the implementation of ABS arrangements, by numbering the elements of the above list by order of priority (from 1 to 9);
 - 2) Please indicate whether other areas related to access and benefit-sharing and requiring capacity-building should be included in this list.
 - 3) Please indicate in which of the following areas your country has expertise and experience to share with others to assist in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

II. According to the key areas for capacity-building listed above, please provide further information regarding your country's specific capacity building needs for each of these, more particularly with respect to: (a) public awareness and education; (b) human resource development; (c) institutional strengthening; (d) systemic capacity (i.e. national policy, legal and regulatory framework, processes and interactions among national institutions)

III. For each of the key areas listed above, please indicate whether capacity-building initiatives have already been carried out or are being considered.

IV. On the basis of needs and priorities established by Parties, the Workshop will assist in identifying the appropriate means of implementation and promote coordination among the various actors involved in capacity-building initiatives. In your view, how could the following entities best facilitate capacity-building to assist Parties with the implementation of ABS arrangements:

- The CBD Secretariat
- The GEF
- Other bilateral and multilateral donors
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Regional networks
- Non-governmental organizations
- Private Sector/Industry
- Scientific/Academic Institutions

V. What other suggestions do you wish to make on capacity-building as it relates to access and benefit-sharing

Please submit to the Secretariat any other information available in your country relevant to capacity-building for ABS, e.g.: existing programmes and initiatives; provision of technical and financial assistance to interested Parties.