



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

RETARIAT

3 December 2001
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NOTIFICATION

Sir/Madam,

Workshop on forest and biological diversity, Accra, Ghana, 28 to 30 January 2002

Invitation to nominate experts

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted at its fourth meeting, held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, in decision IV/7, the work programme on forest biological diversity, focusing on research, cooperation, indicators, and the technologies necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. At its fifth meeting, held in Nairobi, Kenya, the Conference of the Parties decided in decision V/4 to consider expanding the focus of the work programme on forest biological diversity from research to practical action at its sixth meeting.

The seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice discussed in detail the elements for an expanded work programme on forest biological diversity. During this discussion the need to achieve synergies and avoid duplications between the work of the key international bodies and processes, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), was emphasized.

In paragraph 4 of its recommendation VII/6 SBSTTA welcomed the offer by the Government of Ghana to host a workshop to explore opportunities for collaboration among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The text of the SBSTTA recommendation is posted on the Secretariat's website: www.biodiv.org. With the generous financial support of the Government of The Netherlands, the workshop will be held from **28 to 30 January 2002 in Accra, Ghana**, as a collaborative activity between the CBD and UNFF Secretariats, and the Government of Ghana.

The main objectives of the workshop are: (i) sharing experiences and facilitating synergy between the CBD draft Programme of Work on forest biological diversity and the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work and Plan of Action; and (ii) to consider ways and means for integrating conservation and sustainable use of forests into various national policies beyond the conservation and forestry sectors.

To all CBD National Focal Points



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Tel: (+514) 288-2220
Fax: (+514) 288-6588

E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org
URL: <http://www.biodiv.org>

World Trade Centre
393 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 300
Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9

The expected results of the workshop will be (i) a list of elements for possible joint programmes between the Secretariats of the CBD and UNFF, and with the other members of the CPF, and (ii) a short document or guidelines on ensuring successful cross-sectoral implementation of forest programmes and projects at the national level. These results will be forwarded to both the second meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF II), in March in Costa Rica, and to the sixth meeting of the CBD Conferences of the Parties, in April in The Netherlands.

The meeting will bring together about 30 Government-nominated high-level experts as well as observers from relevant organizations. The workshop will be held in English.

You are hereby invited to submit the name of a high-level qualified expert from your country who may be called upon to serve as an expert in the workshop. The nomination of experts, together with a description of his/her expertise to carry out the duties of the workshop, should be sent to the Secretariat, by mail, fax or electronic mail **no later than 15 December 2001** in order to facilitate the selection of participants to the workshop bearing in mind the need to ensure an adequate representation of all the UN regions and various categories of stakeholders.

The high-level expert should have in-depth knowledge of the objectives and implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biological diversity and/or the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work and Plan of Action; a wide experience in implementing national forest programmes and/or national biodiversity strategies and action plans with regard to forest goods and services; and experience with the integration of forest programmes and projects into other forest-related sectors such as trade, energy, health, environment, land-use planning, science and technology, and education.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary