



30 November 2001

Dear Madam/Sir:

Notification: Inter-sessional Activities to be undertaken up to COP-6, as recommended by the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-7)

The purpose of this notification is to invite Parties to take specific actions to implement, prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP), as appropriate, recommendations adopted by the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) held in Montreal from 12 to 16 November 2001.

The report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5) is available on the CBD website at the following address: www.biodiv.org, under documents for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The report will also be mailed to all the Parties. Issues requiring action by Parties, prior to COP-6 are addressed in the following recommendations:

VII/2. Assessment processes: progress report on ongoing assessments

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Calls upon Parties and Governments to provide nominations for experts for the four working groups being set up by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; (paragraph 7);

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties consider the need to provide assistance to developing country Parties so that experts from these Parties can properly participate in the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (paragraph 8).

VII/4. Progress in the development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments on sustainable use

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Encourages Parties to support the organization of an additional meeting to conclude the synthesis of the practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments on the basis of the conclusions of these regional workshops; (paragraph 3);

Urges the implementation of activities in application of decision V/24 of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 4).

To: National Focal Points of the CBD

In this regard, I would appreciate it if your Government could explore possibilities for financial support for organizing this additional meeting to conclude the synthesis of the practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments on the basis of the conclusions of these regional workshops. The case-studies being an important source of information for developing the practical principles, the Parties who have not submitted case-studies yet are kindly reminded of this opportunity to do so.

VII/6. Forest biological diversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Requests the Executive Secretary, drawing upon the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity and seeking comments from Parties, the Bureau and members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, to prepare a report for consideration by Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting identifying (paragraph 2):

(a) Elements in the work programme adopted by decision IV/7 of relevance to the expanded work programme, and how these may be incorporated in the expanded programme of work, also taking into account multi-year programme of work and plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) Potential actors, a suggested timeframe and possible ways and means for implementation of the activities proposed, as well as indicators of progress in implementation, taking into account the potential for collaborative work with other bodies, in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Request the Executive Secretary to invite Parties to submit their views and suggestions for potential priorities for the proposed expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity taking into account the chapeau of the annex to the present recommendation to be incorporated into an information document and report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting for consideration; (paragraph 3)

Accordingly, I hereby invite you (a) to provide comments and (b) to submit your views and suggestions as requested in the above 2 paragraphs, **by 31 January 2002**.

VII/8. Global strategy for plant conservation

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling decision V/10 of the Conference of the Parties (COP),

In preparation for consideration of the draft strategy by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting,

Requests the Executive Secretary, with the support of technical experts, in consultation with participants of the ongoing international initiatives referred to in the fourth preambular paragraph above and on the basis of advice from Parties, to refine the quantitative elements of the targets in the draft strategy providing a scientific and technical rationale in each case, and clarifying terms as necessary (paragraph 2);

Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis of the opportunities for implementation of the strategy through the thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention, including in particular the Ecosystem Approach and the Global Taxonomy Initiative, as well as through existing relevant international, regional and national initiatives, and of any gaps in these programmes and initiatives (paragraph 3);

Invites Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to provide information to the Executive Secretary on relevant international, regional and national initiatives (paragraph 4).

Accordingly, I hereby invite you to:

- (a) provide advice relating to the refinement of the quantitative elements of the targets in the Annex to recommendation VII/8; and
- (b) provide information on initiatives relevant to the plant conservation strategy and the targets.

VII/12. Topics for future work

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Invites Parties to provide to the Executive Secretary, by March 2002, comments on these possibilities, and/or additional suggestions, as appropriate, for inclusion in an information document to be made available to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (paragraph 1).

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

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

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary