



# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

## SECRETARIAT

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/MGtA/va/34066

17 February 2003

### NOTIFICATION

**Subject: Expert/Government Peer review of the Draft Report produced by the Convention on Biological Diversity's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biological Diversity and Climate Change on the Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change and Advice on the Integration of Biodiversity Considerations into the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol**

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its fifth meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to consider the impact of climate change on forest biological diversity, and to prepare scientific advice in order to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. This was to be carried out, where feasible, in collaboration with the appropriate bodies of the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In response to this request, SBSTTA, at its sixth meeting held in Montreal, Canada, in March 2001, noted in its recommendation VI/7 the inter-linkages between biological diversity and climate change, and decided to promote, on the basis of the ecosystem approach, a wider assessment of these inter-linkages. As a first step, SBSTTA decided to carry out a pilot assessment to prepare scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and, for this purpose, established an *ad hoc technical expert group* (AHTEG). The selection of experts was based on nominations by the Parties and organizations, taking into account their expertise and experience in the field of climate change and biological diversity, geographical distribution, and gender balance.

The AHTEG held two meetings during 2002, with the objective of developing the draft report: *Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change and Advice on the Integration of Biodiversity Considerations into the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol*.

To: CBD National Focal Points  
SBSTTA Focal Points  
UNFCCC National Focal Points



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme

Tel: (514) 288.22.20  
Fax: (514) 288.65.88

Email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org)  
Web: [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)

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

After an initial round of informal review, carried out between October and November 2002, a revised version of the draft report was produced, which contains six chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction.
- Chapter 2: Biological Diversity: Linkages to Climate Change.
- Chapter 3: Climate Change and Biodiversity: Observed and Projected Impacts.
- Chapter 4: Mitigation and Adaptation Options: Links to, and Impacts on, Biodiversity.
- Chapter 5: Tools for Making, Evaluating, and Monitoring Decisions.
- Chapter 6: Selected Case Studies: Harmonization of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Activities, and Biodiversity Considerations.

The document is opened for comments, **in the English language only**, by the scientific community, governments, and relevant international institutions. The purpose of the peer review is to assess the quality of the information presented in the draft report, its relevance and accuracy, and to obtain possible additional elements which should be included in the document.

The **review guidelines** (including address for sending the review) as well as the **draft report** are now available on a restricted web site. Please contact the Secretariat at [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org) for instructions.

The AHTEG member's list is also provided in this web site. If you have difficulties with either accessing or downloading from this website, please contact the Secretariat or Ms. Véronique Allain directly at [veronique.allain@biodiv.org](mailto:veronique.allain@biodiv.org). Telephone: +1-514-288-2220 (please do not send review comments to this address).

The AHTEG will finalize the draft report during its final meeting scheduled for early May 2003 in Helsinki, Finland, taking into account the observations and recommendations provided by reviewers. The document will be considered at the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-9) in November 2003 and at the ninth meeting of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP-9) scheduled for December 2003.

Experts and governments are invited to send their comments before, but no later than, **14 April 2003**.

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

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary