



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SECRETARIAT

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/IA/37337

10 July 2003

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Establishment of a liaison group on Non-timber forest resources

Dear Madam/Sir,

In paragraph 42 of decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to establish a liaison group on non-timber forest resources including members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, IUCN, and other relevant organizations, to prepare recommendations on how to prevent losses of biodiversity caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources.

In accordance with Programme element 1, Goal 4, Objective 2(a) of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity annexed to decision VI/22, the liaison group is expected to facilitate the development of a joint work plan to bring harvesting of non-timber forest products, with a particular focus on bush meat, to sustainable levels. The specific mandate of the liaison group is to:

- (i) Consult in a participatory manner with key stakeholders to identify and prioritize major issues pertaining to the unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, particularly of bushmeat and related products;
- (ii) Provide advice on the development of policies, enabling legislation and strategies that promote sustainable use of, and trade in, non-timber forest products, particularly bushmeat and related products;
- (iii) Provide advice on appropriate alternative sustainable livelihood technologies and practices for the affected communities;
- (iv) Provide advice on appropriate monitoring tools.

To: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)/Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)/ IUCN, and other relevant organizations



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On the basis of the work of the liaison group, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) will prepare recommendations on this matter for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

Regarding membership, the COP requested that the liaison group should have a proportionate regional representation, giving special consideration to subregions where bush meat is a major issue and representation of relevant organizations such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

You are hereby invited to submit the name of an expert from your organization who may be called upon to serve in the liaison group, together with a description of his/her expertise and full coordinates. The work of the group will be carried out in English by e-mail and, as needed, through conference calls or other means. A workshop will be organized if the required funds are identified.

The nomination of experts should be sent to the Secretariat, by fax or electronic mail no later than **8 August 2003**. Nominees should be contacted by their organizations and their availability checked before names are submitted.

I wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and for your continued support of the work of the Convention.

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary