



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SECRETARIAT

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/GVT/dh/36286

14 August 2003

NOTIFICATION

**Subject: International Workshop on Protected Forest Areas,
6 to 8 November 2003
Montreal, Canada**

Dear Madam/Sir,

In paragraph 19 (d) of decision VI/22 on Forest Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare and hold an international workshop on protected areas as a measure to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity. The purpose of the workshop is to exchange current knowledge and experience on opportunities and challenges to establishing and ensuring long-term sustainability of protected forest areas and provide recommendations for the further implementation of activities under programme element 1, goal 3, objective 3 of the work programme on forest biological diversity (see attached annex).

In the same decision the Conference of the Parties recommended that (i) the workshop be prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), IUCN- The World Conservation Union and other relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and other relevant bodies, institutions and processes, non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders; and (ii) participants from Parties and other Governments include senior officials from forest and environment ministries, the decision makers and other stakeholders.

In response to this decision, I am pleased to inform you that, with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands, the workshop will take place in Montreal, Canada from 6 to 8 November 2003, prior to the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-9)

You are hereby invited to submit the name of an expert from your Government, who may be called upon to participate in the workshop, together with a description of his/her relevant expertise, position in the environment or forest ministry, and full coordinates. Nominees should be contacted and their availability verified prior to the submission of their names. Once nominations are received, the Executive Secretary will select the experts with due consideration being given to gender and geographical balance.

To: CBD National Focal Points
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In submitting the nomination of your Government's expert, you may wish to note that since the International Workshop on Forest Protected Areas is organized back-to-back with SBSTTA-9, and given the limited financial resources available to the Workshop, the Secretariat will endeavor to select experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition from among those delegates who are also designated by their respective governments to participate in SBSTTA-9. Please note that only those delegates (i.e. those selected to participate in **both** the Workshop and SBSTTA-9) shall receive a roundtrip air ticket on the most economical and direct route as well as a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) to cover their participation to the Workshop as well as to SBSTTA-9. In this regard, and in the event that your nominated expert shall **only** participate in the Workshop, the cost of his/her participation shall be borne by your Government. However, officially designated delegates from eligible countries who will **only** attend SBSTTA-9 shall be provided with financial support (air ticket and DSA) to cover their participation.

The nomination of experts should be sent to the Secretariat, by fax or electronic mail no later than **10 September 2003**.

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

Sincerely yours

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

ANNEX

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1. Conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

Goal 3. To protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity

Objective 3. Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks.

Activities

- a. Assess the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected areas relative to forest types and identify gaps and weaknesses.
- b. Establish (in accordance with Article 8(j)) with the full participation and with respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders, comprehensive, adequate, biologically and geographically representative and effective networks of protected areas.
- c. Establish, in a similar manner, restoration areas to complement the network of protected areas where needed.
- d. Revise in a similar manner and ensure the comprehensiveness, adequacy, representativeness and efficacy of existing protected area networks.
- e. Assess the efficacy of protected forest areas for the conservation of biological diversity.
- f. Ensure that relevant protected areas are managed to maintain and enhance their forest biodiversity components, services and values.