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18 December 2003

NOTIFICATION**Theme for International Biological Diversity Day 2004**

Dear Madam/Sir,

In response to paragraph 7 (b) of decision V/17, which was adopted at the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, I am pleased to confirm that I have designated the theme of International Biodiversity Day, 22 May 2004 as:

BIODIVERSITY: FOOD, WATER AND HEALTH FOR ALL

The theme has been chosen to reflect the Convention's firm commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and complements the designation of 2004 as the International Year of Rice. The Secretariat is preparing additional background information that may be of interest in your preparations for celebrating the day. This information will be sent to you in the near future together with the International Biodiversity Day poster for 2004. This information will also be posted on the CBD Website in line with the usual practice.

I invite you to immediately initiate national plans for activities to celebrate the International Biological Diversity Day, which is of particular importance as 2004 is also the 10th anniversary year of the Convention's entry into force.

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

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points

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