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30 April 2004

**NOTIFICATION  
Launch of Forest Web Portal**

Dear Madam/Sir,

In paragraph 19(g) of decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to provide, through the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention, a service for Parties, including through an internet portal, to seek and provide support and partnerships in order to facilitate implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity.

To this end, the Secretariat will launch a forest web portal on **May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004**. The portal is intended to serve as a tool for facilitating the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forests, for promoting network development amongst interested Parties, governments and stakeholders, and as a way of reviewing the implementation of the expanded work programme. The portal will also provide the opportunity for users to report on relevant case studies and best practices.

On a monthly basis, an electronic discussion forum will be structured around each of the 27 objectives of the expanded work programme on forest biodiversity (available at <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.aspx?dec=VI/22>). Each month, the portal will contain the following sections relevant to each objective: (i) background on the topic; (ii) guidance on indicators of progress related to the implementation of the objective; (iii) any background information on relevant CBD principles and guidelines that apply to the objective; and (iv) supplementary information, including links to other websites and relevant publications. The monthly discussion topic corresponding will be moderated and archived for further analysis and synthesis. A database of best practices related to each topic will always be available on the site. Users will be able to submit their case studies to the database for presentation on the portal

The portal can be accessed at <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/portal/home.shtml>. First-time users will need to register. I invite you to make use of the portal, and encourage you to transmit this information to all interested stakeholders in your country.

I want to thank you for your support to the work of the Convention

Sincerely,

**Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary**

To: National Focal Points  
CHM National Focal Points  
CHM IAC Members

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