

Ref.: SCBD/I&amp;O/CHM/MS/50380

20 September 2005

**NOTIFICATION**

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Subject: The new CBD electronic information centre**

I am writing in connection to paragraph 12(a) of decision VI/19, which requested the Executive Secretary to develop appropriate partnerships with public and private research and academic institutions for the exchange of publications, related to biodiversity. I also refer to paragraph 1(d) of the annex of same decision, which proposed that an electronic portal and an alternative information dissemination mechanism be developed to provide access to relevant projects and publications.

In light of the above, I have the honour to announce the launching of the CBD electronic information centre developed to facilitate access to and exchange of information on biodiversity related publications, reports, serials, bibliographies and other resources. Composed of electronic catalogues and links to resources, the CBD electronic information centre offers Parties, other Governments and stakeholders a depository of research and educational materials published in support of the Convention and its Biosafety Protocol. Furthermore, the Secretariat is undertaking a retrospective project to acquire past research and scholarly publications, in paper or electronic format, on the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol.

As well, in an effort to promote greater integration and interoperability of biodiversity related materials, the Secretariat coded bibliographical information using standard analytical and subject cataloguing standards. Finally, the Secretariat invites you to deposit research and educational materials with the CBD electronic information centre that you may believe will increase the use of this new resource.

To access the CBD electronic information centre, please go to the Convention's website at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/info-centre.shtml>

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

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points  
CHM National Focal Points  
CEPA Informal Advisory Committee Members  
CHM Informal Advisory Committee Members