



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY
PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS

**22 May
2006**



ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!

4 May 2006

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/RK/MG/VA/54726

NOTIFICATION

Re.: Assessment of genetically modified trees for their potential environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity

Dear Sir/Madam,

In decision VIII/19 B paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to collect and collate existing information on genetically modified trees, in order to allow the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), at its 13th meeting, to consider and assess the potential environmental, cultural, and socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.

In the subsequent paragraph of the same decision, Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including indigenous and local communities, as well as relevant stakeholders are invited to provide relevant views and information to the Secretariat for inclusion in this assessment.

As a first step in the preparation of the assessment, the attached questionnaire is intended to provide the Secretariat with information. It would be highly appreciated if you could kindly fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to the Secretariat at your earliest convenience but no later than **1 September 2006**.

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

Yours sincerely,

[signed]
Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA focal points



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PILOT ASSESSMENT

On the potential environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees on forest biological diversity

Name of Country:

Affiliation:

Contact details of person completing the questionnaire (including e-mail):

1. Does your country have any plantations, either commercial or experimental, of genetically modified trees?

If yes, please answer all remaining questions.
If no, please state the reason why:

2. Has your country developed any platform/discussion forum/national committee etc. dealing with genetically modified trees?

If yes, please answer the remaining questions.
If no, please state the reason why:

3. Does your country have any guidelines or regulations for minimizing the impacts of genetically modified trees for scientific and/or commercial purposes?

If yes, please list them according to the categories below:
If no, please explain the reason why here:

Environmental impacts of genetically modified trees
(Example: effects on native ecosystems, use of herbicide)

Cultural impacts of genetically modified trees
(Example: positive or negative impacts on indigenous and local communities and their traditional knowledge)

Socio-economic impacts of genetically modified trees
(Example: positive or negative effects on quantity, quality and economic value of forest production; positive or negative impacts on livelihoods of communities)