



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY  
PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS

**22 May**  
2006



ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!

5 May 2006

Ref: SCBD/SEL/DO/NFPs/54700

## NOTIFICATION

### **Subject: Responsibilities of National Focal Points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strengthening of their Capacities**

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you know, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties which took place in Curitiba, Brazil from 20 to 31 March 2006, reviewed the operations of the Convention with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of and streamlining Convention processes in order to strengthen its implementation. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties underlined the important role played by national focal points in liaising with the Secretariat of the Convention and in promoting national implementation, and considered their function.

In paragraph 26 of decision VIII/10, the Conference of the Parties recognized that Parties determine the specific responsibilities of their national focal points. However, it also noted that the primary function of national focal points is to act as liaisons with the Secretariat on behalf of their Parties and, in so doing, they are responsible for the following:

- a) Receiving and disseminating information related to the Convention;
- b) Ensuring that Parties are represented at meetings under the Convention;
- c) Identifying experts to participate in ad hoc technical expert groups, assessment processes and other processes under the Convention;
- d) Responding to other requests for input by Parties from the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat;
- e) Collaborating with national focal points in other countries to facilitate implementation of the Convention; and
- f) Monitoring, promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention.

In paragraph 27 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and Governments, international and regional financial institutions and development agencies, as well as other donors, to make funds available for strengthening the capacity of national focal points for the Convention in developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing states, and countries with economies in transition, so as to make them more effective.

To: CBD National Focal Points  
cc: Heads of Delegations at COP-8



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Any views and/or suggestions which you may wish to provide to the Secretariat, at your earliest convenience but preferably **before 29 September 2006**, for the implementation of this important decision of the Conference of the Parties or any other information related to the focal point of your country would be appreciated. I am pleased to inform you that I have designated Mr. David Cooper ([david.cooper@biodiv.org](mailto:david.cooper@biodiv.org)), Senior Programme Officer, as the contact person of the Secretariat on all issues related to the CBD focal points.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary