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2 December 2009

NOTIFICATION

2010 Calendar for the Latin American and Caribbean sub-regional workshops organized in collaboration with the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) in the region and with the financial support of the Government of Spain

Dear Madam/Sir,

Under Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Parties undertake to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices.

Furthermore, the Convention has a rich history of decisions requesting capacity building for indigenous and local communities to ensure their effective participation in Convention processes. The more recent decision includes:

1. Decision IX 13 *D*, concerning the plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in which Parties decided that the priority for future work on the plan of action should focus on section E, on capacity-building; and
2. Decision IX 13 *E*, paragraph 7, on participatory mechanisms, which requested the Executive Secretary to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, further regional and sub-regional workshops on community-friendly communication tools on traditional knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, to assist local and indigenous communities in their use and to facilitate the establishment of communication networks, noting the need for adapting them to local languages and for involving trainers from indigenous and local communities.

To: CBD National Focal Points and Indigenous and Local Communities

Pursuant to the above decision, I am pleased to announce that the Secretariat of the CBD is organizing a series of sub-regional capacity building workshops for the Latin American and the Caribbean region (LAC), in collaboration with the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) in the region and with the generous financial support of the Government of Spain.

These sub-regional workshops aim to improve the numbers of indigenous and local community representatives, with an emphasis on women, effectively participating in the CBD processes, as well as build their capacity to do so.

A provisional calendar of the series of workshops for 2010 is attached. A further notification for each workshop will be posted approximately three months before the workshop requesting nominations from indigenous and local community organizations. Indigenous and local community organizations are encouraged to nominate indigenous and local community trainers, to assist the workshop in its train-the-trainer methodology, to further disseminate information through indigenous and local community networks in each of the sub-regions. The Secretariat looks forward to receiving nominations in due course.

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

Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Annex

**2010 Provisional calendar for the
Latin American and Caribbean sub-regional workshops**

Date	Venue
4 - 6 February	Buenos Aires, Argentina
4 - 6 March	Guatemala or México (To be advised)
8 - 10 April	Georgetown, Guyana
10 - 12 June	Brasilia, Brazil
1- 3 July	Bogotá, Colombia
12 - 14 August	Panamá City, Panama