Ref.: SCBD/IMS/JMF/FK/87606 6 September 2018

**N O T I F I C A T I O N**

**Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair: Call for Exhibitors**

Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to announce that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is planning to convene a Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair from 17 to 29 November 2018, on the margins of the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The Fair aims to inspire, facilitate access to, and promote the application of relevant technologies and innovative solutions for biodiversity conservation in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020 biodiversity agenda.

Exhibitors at the Fair will showcase innovations, technologies and solutions that are being applied or can be applied for the conservation of biological diversity. A limited number of designated exhibition spaces will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Kindly note that this exhibition space for the Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair is different from the traditional exhibition held on the margins of COP referred to in the information note for participants.

Parties and other organizations are requested to identify and invite potential exhibitors wishing to participate in the Fair to complete the attached registration form and return it to the Secretariat by e-mail at: secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at: +1 (514) 288-6588, as soon as possible but no later than 24 September 2018 as availability of space is limited.

Please find enclosed herewith a background note about the fair, including its purpose and scope and logistical information. For further information, please contact Mr. Camillo Ponziani, Programme Officer in the Implementation Support Division, at: camillo.ponziani@cbd.int.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD

Executive Secretary

**BACKGROUND NOTE**

**BIODIVERSITY INNOVATION AND SOLUTIONS FAIR**

**17-29 November 2018**

**Sharm El-Sheikh International Congress Center, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt**

**PURPOSE**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is organizing a Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair on the margins of the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference to showcase technologies, innovations and solutions that can be leveraged to solve key biodiversity challenges.

**RATIONALE**

Science and technology are transforming society and expanding the frontier of possibility. The field of biodiversity conservation can and should capitalize on the opportunities that emerging innovative solutions and technologies present. If designed and applied appropriately, these innovative solutions and technologies have the potential to significantly improve the conservation efforts around the globe and shift the direction of the biodiversity agenda and its outcomes.

**OBJECTIVES**

The overall goal of the Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair is to inspire, facilitate access to, and promote the application of relevant technologies and innovative solutions to better achieve biodiversity conservation. The main objectives of the Fair are to:

* Provide a platform to showcase state-of-the-art technologies, approaches and solutions relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
* Provide a forum for the makers and early adopters of relevant conservation technologies to share their experiences in leveraging them in an interactive setting;
* Foster dialogue, inspire partnerships and facilitate matchmaking among Parties and relevant stakeholders, with special attention to the private sector and recognized centers of expertise cooperating with the Convention, to create stronger alliances for nature;
* Demonstrate new mediums such as video games, hand-held applications and other immersive technologies that can be leveraged to better educate, engage and rally the public around the need to safeguard biodiversity and live in harmony with nature; and
* Inform and shape the preparation of the post-2020 biodiversity agenda by highlighting the opportunities offered by these innovations and approaches, and by the players promoting them.

**ORGANIZER**

The event is being organized by the Secretariat, in collaboration with various partners, including Conservation X Labs and National Geographic, in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the preparations for the post-2020 biodiversity agenda. The Secretariat and its partners will use the Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair, the Business and Biodiversity Forum parallel to the High-Level Segment, and other larger parallel and side events to engage Parties, subnational actors, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Youth and the educational, scientific and academic sectors to foster technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in line with Article 18 and related provisions of the Convention.

**SCOPE OF EXHIBITIONS**

Exhibitors will showcase innovations, technologies, approaches and solutions that can be applied for:

* Monitoring biodiversity, ecosystem services and efforts towards implementation of the CBD;
* Identifying biodiversity, and associated services, uses, values and resources;
* Protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems;
* Supporting biodiversity data capture, management and analysis; and
* Bringing visibility to resource efficient initiatives for promoting nature-based solutions.

**EXHIBITION SPACES**

The Fair includes the following three distinct “spaces”:

1. An exhibition space showcasing the latest innovations, emerging technologies and approaches to conservation

This space is intended to showcase state-of-the-art biodiversity-related technologies, innovations and solutions. Soft technologies with high impact demonstration value may also be exhibited. The designers and early adopters of these solutions will use this space to share their experiences and provide hands-on demonstrations.

Each exhibitor will have a space of approximately 3m x 3m or 10ft x 10ft. and is expected to be manned for a period of one week (five days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). There will be two rotations over the course of the Fair as follows:

**Rotation 1:** 17-22 November (set-up and testing of equipment to take place on 16 November)

**Rotation 2:** 25-29 November (hand-over, set up and testing of equipment to take place on 24 November)

The space should be cleared of all equipment and material by 30 November. Please see the COP14 [Information Note for Participants](https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-14/other/cop-14-info-note-en.pdf) para 19 for more information on the Fair logistics.

1. Interactive and immersive space highlighting the importance of and options for safeguarding life on earth through technology

This space will be used to demonstrate new mediums, applications and other products for engaging and rallying the public around the need and options for safeguarding biodiversity and living in harmony with nature. It will include, among others:

* *Photo Exhibition by the Roberta Bondar Foundation*

23 large format photographs by Roberta Bondar, renowned nature photographer and Canada’s first woman in space.

* *Eco-acoustic Theatre operated by Spheral SRL*

This theatre space will allow participants to experience the world’s oldest and most diverse ecosystems through immersive listening. The theatre builds a virtual space that allows participants to reconnect with nature, for example, a journey through time into the oldest ecosystems on Earth, the sounds of which live on today.

* *Demo version of BioStories, the Secretariat’s video game*

The Secretariat plans to launch a limited release demo of a chapter-based video game called *BioStories* to explore the use of this medium to engage people and increase environmental awareness around key biodiversity targets, to highlight best practices and standard operating procedures around conservation issues and to draw attention to technologies that can be leveraged. The game will include themes of cooperation, technology transfer and science and will be infused with decision-making points where the audience can interact with the game through the story and the outcomes that certain decisions have on the natural environment.

1. Matchmaking and partnership-building space

This public space will be used to foster dialogue, inspire partnerships and networking, and facilitate matchmaking among Parties and relevant stakeholders to create stronger alliances for nature. Features and different events will include:

* Keynote speeches and side events highlighting different experiences and perspectives on applications of technology for biodiversity;
* A series of side events and talks in conjunction with the Business and Biodiversity Forum and, as appropriate, the organizers of other side events focused on science, technology and innovation;
* A matchmaking forum to encourage new partners to sign up as providers of technical assistance with a view to building a critical mass of providers of technical assistance and link them up with Parties and stakeholders that have requested assistance.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

There are a limited number of free exhibition spaces to be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. The application for space, when and if accepted by the Secretariat, shall constitute a contract between the Exhibitor and the Secretariat. The terms of the contact include the terms and conditions specified below:

1. The Secretariat will honour location requests but reserves the right, if necessary, to amend and modify up to and including the day of the Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair.
2. Space will be allocated on a first come-first served basis.
3. The Secretariat reserves the right to remove, decline, or prohibit any exhibit which, in its opinion, is not suitable to or in keeping with the objectives and/or character of the Fair.

The Exhibitor shall:

1. Refrain from selling or buying any materials, wares, or any other items to and from a visitor or any other exhibitor throughout the duration of the Fair;
2. Indemnify and save the Secretariat harmless from and against claims, actions, losses, damages, expenses and costs whatsoever made by any person arising out of the ownership, handling and use of techniques and technological products exhibited by the Exhibitor at the Fair;
3. Ensure that none of the techniques and technological products exposed or demonstrated poses a threat to safety and security (physical drones are strictly prohibited); and does not create unacceptable level of noise and odour, if applicable; and
4. Refrain from any conduct or message that would detract from the image of integrity or professionalism of the Secretariat and shall not engage in any activity which is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations for the duration of the Fair.

**BIODIVERSITY INNOVATION AND SOLUTIONS FAIR**

**REGISTRATION FORM FOR EXHIBITORS**

November 17-29, 2018

**Venue:** Exhibition Tent, Sharm El-Sheikh International Congress Center, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

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| **Organization Information** | | |
| Organization: |  | |
| Address: |  | Country: |
| Contact person: |  | |
| Phone: |  | E-mail: |
| Description of exhibition: |  | |

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| **Space Information** | |
| Number of spaces: | One Two  *Please note that each space is 3m x 3m (approximately 10ft x 10ft) and is equipped with spot light, power socket (220V), one table and two chairs.* |
| Rotations: | First week (17-22 November)  Second week (25-29 November) |
| Please return this registration form **no later than September 24, 2018** to the Secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity.  **Contact person:** Ms. Farah Kashaf, with copy to Ms. Claire Parois  **E-mail:** farah.kashaf@cbd.int; claire.parois@cbd.int  **Phone:** +1 514 287 7041 | |

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