



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



## Short Term Assistant – South-South Cooperation

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**Type of Contract: Short Term Assistant**  
**Post Level: G7**  
**Duty Station: Montreal**  
**Duration: 3 months, renewable**  
**Application Deadline: Feb 28, 2009**  
**Start Date: ASAP**

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### Background

Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity is dedicated to promoting sustainable development. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity emphasized, in its decision IX/25, that South-South cooperation is important for development in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome as a complement to, and supported by, North-South cooperation. In the decision, the Conference of the Parties noted the initiative of developing countries to prepare, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners, a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development, based on the above-mentioned framework; invited Parties and other Governments, regional and international organizations to support the organization of a South-South cooperation forum on biodiversity for development at the margins of its tenth meeting, in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan; and invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report on the preparation of the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In June 2008, at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFC-XII) in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, the member States of the Group of 77 launched the Development Platform for the South in the context of the new realities and emerging challenges facing developing countries. Under item 4.II, paragraphs 42-46, the Development Platform recognizes that biodiversity is under threat and that South-South cooperation on biodiversity can be significant and fruitful. In section B of chapter 3, on proposed measures for South-South cooperation, the Development Platform recommends the elaboration of a “multi-year work programme on South-South cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for protection of life on Earth as well as the access and fair equitable sharing of benefit arising from the use of genetic resources.”

With financial support from the Global Environment Facility and in partnership with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity convened an expert meeting in Montreal, on 6-7 November 2008, to review the above-mentioned draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for full integration into the G-77 Development Platform for



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the South and identify activities for inclusion in the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development.

### **Objective**

The present short-term assignment aims to assist the Programme Officer in charge to develop and validate the multi-year plan of action, by consulting with Parties and other players, identifying a roadmap with action items needed to implement the plan, and submitting the result to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

### **Terms of Reference**

The short-term staff, under supervision of the programme officer on tourism, islands and sustainable use, will:

- a) produce, in consultation with the secretariat and the chair of the Group of 77 as well as the High-Level Committee on South-South cooperation of the UN General Assembly, a draft of the multi-year plan of action, based on:
  - Compilation of input from relevant colleagues in the Secretariat ,
  - Information obtained from the G-77 secretariat and chair, UNDP's South-South cooperation Unit and other organizations, ensuring timely and adequate input;
  - Information submitted by Parties in their National Reports;
  - Web-based and bibliographical research;
- b) assist the programme officer in liaising with relevant organizations to ensure timely and effective cooperation;
- c) update and maintain the CBD website on South-South cooperation (<http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml>), including research and compilation of relevant case studies, papers and articles on the subject;
- d) assist in the organization of an expert meeting, at a date and venue to be agreed with the chair of the Group of 77 and relevant organizations, for the validation of the multi-year plan of action; and
- e) produce the final version of the document, editing, merging different sources of text, graphs and tables according to the guidance of the officer.

In addition, the assistant will support the programme officer in other matters as needed.

### **Qualifications**

#### *Education*

University Degree in the natural sciences, international cooperation and development, natural resource management, or other relevant fields.

#### *Skills Required*

- Excellent spoken and written English. Proficiency in French and Spanish (or other UN languages) is an asset;
- Experience in, and familiarity with, international development cooperation in the area of environment, in particular between developing countries and triangular arrangements, preferably involving the Group of 77 and related institutions;
- Familiarity with the CBD and its bodies.

### **Conditions**

The selected candidate will be employed under a short term General Service contract, renewable if both parties agree.

**Remuneration:** CAN\$3027.58 monthly

**Special Information:**

Appointment against this post is on a local basis. External candidates will be considered only when no suitable internal candidate from the duty station is identified. If an external candidate is selected, his/her appointment will be subject to medical clearance. The candidate is responsible for any travel expenses incurred in order to participate in an interview, to initiate the process of medical clearance and to take up the assignment.

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Please send all applications to: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)

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