



10 July 2001

Madam/Sir,

**CBD-UNESCO CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS**

**(Third Meeting, Bilbao, Spain, 13-15 September 2001)**

We are pleased to announce that the CBD-UNESCO Consultative working group of experts, charged with developing and testing a global initiative on biological diversity education and public awareness, based on implementation of Article 13 and as a follow-up of decision V/17 adopted at the Fifth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will hold its third meeting from 13 to 15 September 2001 in Bilbao, Spain.

The Global Initiative aims to create dynamics or awareness leading to participation and action in the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits of biological diversity; and to provide an overall strategy for the implementation of national and international solutions to specific issues in the area of biodiversity education and public awareness.

The main objectives of the three-day meeting include the further design and implementation of the strategy, the finalization of operational elements and suggested action, including in the form of demonstration projects and best practices. A feasible timetable of targets will complete the strategic focus of the meeting.

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting as your participation and your valuable expertise in the field of biological diversity education and public awareness is important to the success of the meeting. Please find enclosed a provisional agenda and timetable together with an outline of the points for discussion, as well as background documents (reports of the first and second meeting, a compilation of relevant COP decisions). A registration form is also included and should be duly completed and sent to either of the following persons before 27 July 2001: [s.arico@unesco.org](mailto:s.arico@unesco.org) or [alexander.heydendael@biodiv.org](mailto:alexander.heydendael@biodiv.org).

To all participants (as per attached list)

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Those participants who have confirmed their attendance will receive an explanatory note containing further information on travel and accommodation.

Participants are requested to prepare a brief note on their views for the desired future direction of the Global Initiative process and content. The written contributions will be compiled in a document, which will be made available at the meeting. Contributions should be sent to [s.arico@unesco.org](mailto:s.arico@unesco.org) with a copy to [alexander.heydendael@biodiv.org](mailto:alexander.heydendael@biodiv.org) by 15 August 2001. Participants are also requested to contribute to one or two working groups, selected from the four working groups featured in the agenda, within their field of specialization.

We look forward very much to your constructive participation at the meeting.

Hamdallah Zedan



Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
(CBD)

Peter Bridgewater



Director, Division of Ecological Sciences  
Secretary, Man and the Biosphere  
Programme  
UNESCO