

Ref.: SCBD/BS/WD/jh

10 January 2002

NOTIFICATION**Confirmation of the convening of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (ICCP 3)
22-26 April 2002, The Hague, The Netherlands**

Madam/Sir,

As you may recall, recommendation 2/13 of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) had envisaged the convening of a third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee back-to-back with the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-6) in The Hague, Netherlands, in the event that the fiftieth instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance of the Protocol has not been deposited by 8 January 2002. The Bureau of COP-5 subsequently endorsed the recommendation, and the same was communicated to you through our notification dated 24 October 2001. As at the expiry of the cut-off date mentioned in the recommendation, i.e., 8 January 2002, only 10 countries, namely Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Fiji, Lesotho, Nauru, The Netherlands, Norway, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda have ratified or acceded to the Protocol.

This is, therefore, to kindly confirm to you that the third meeting of the ICCP will take place from 22 to 26 April 2002 in The Hague, Netherlands, with a view to further advance preparations that would facilitate the work of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to my letter ref. SCBD/OES/HZ/MS/22189 dated 15 October 2001 through which an invitation was extended to your Government to designate representatives to COP-6 and the third meeting of the ICCP. Accordingly, I look forward to receive the name and contact information of your representative to the third meeting of the ICCP in good time. The provisional agenda and other documents for this meeting will be sent to you in due course. Please note that the Secretariat hopes to be in a position to provide financial support for one representative for each of the two meetings (COP-6 and ICCP 3) for developing countries and countries with economies in transition Parties to the Convention, unless lack of financial resources remains to constrain us to support only one representative for the two meetings as envisaged in the letter dated 15 October 2001.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To ICCP National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where ICCP National Focal Points have not yet been designated)