



Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/MV/va

21 January 2002

Sir/Madam,

The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 4 to 15 May 1998, adopted decision IV/5 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, enabling the programme of work contained in its annex. Under programme element 4 on mariculture, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an ad hoc technical expert group on mariculture to assist the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in its work on this topic. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in its decision V/3, approved the terms of reference and the duration of work for the group as specified in annex II to recommendation V/14 of the SBSTTA. The terms of reference are attached.

You are hereby invited to submit the name of an expert from your country who may be called upon to serve in the ad hoc technical expert group, together with a description of his/her expertise to carry out the tasks mandated to this group in the terms of reference. The nomination of experts should be sent to the Secretariat, by fax or electronic mail no later than 15 February 2002.

Once nominees are received, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, will select up to fifteen experts with due consideration given to geographical balance as well as to ensuring that the range of expertise on mariculture is covered. It is envisaged that the first meeting of the expert group will take place in Rome, Italy, from 1 to 5 July 2002. A second meeting of the expert group will be held at a later date.

I wish to thank you for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support towards the implementation of the Convention.

Sincerely yours,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To All CBD National Focal Points



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Tel: (514) 288.22.20
Fax: (514) 288.65.88

E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org
Web: www.biodiv.org

World Trade Centre
393 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 300
Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9

AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON MARICULTURE

Terms of reference

1. Evaluate the current state of scientific and technological knowledge on the effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.
2. Provide guidance on criteria, methods and techniques that avoid the adverse effects of mariculture, and also subsequent stock enhancement, on marine and coastal biological diversity and enhance the positive effects of mariculture on marine and coastal productivity.

Duration of work

The ad hoc expert group on mariculture should start immediately after the approval on the terms of reference by the Conference of the Parties. The time for the completion of these activities so that their output can be considered in depth by SBSTTA will depend on the time when SBSTTA might be requested by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting to report or advise on aspects relating to sustainable use of biodiversity or when the Conference of the Parties might decide to review the Jakarta Mandate programme of work.