

Ref: SCBD/SEL/OJ

31 January 2002

Madam/Sir,

NOTIFICATION**Re: Regional Meetings to Share Experiences in the Implementation of the Convention and Prepare for the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

I have the honour to inform you that regional preparatory meetings to share experiences in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and assist Parties to prepare for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, are being organized by the Secretariat of the Convention, with the support of the relevant Regional Offices of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meetings will be held on the following dates and venues:

- Africa: United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), Nairobi, Kenya, on 19-21 March;
- Asia and the Pacific: UN/ESCAP Building, Bangkok, Thailand, on 18-20 March;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Jamaica Conference Center, Kingston, Jamaica, on 18-20 March.

It should also be noted, in this connection, that a joint preparatory meeting for Western, and Central and Eastern Europe will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from 24 to 28 March 2002 in the framework of the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity Strategy: Second European Intergovernmental Conference "Biodiversity in Europe".

In decision III/26 and V/20, the Conference of the Parties emphasized the importance of regional meetings in preparing for Convention meetings and in enhancing implementation of the Convention. In light of this, the Secretariat will be organizing the above-mentioned meetings. The main objectives of the meetings will be:

1. To provide a forum for governments and other stakeholders to share experiences and information regarding implementation of the Convention;
2. To identify issues of regional concern and where possible find solutions;
3. To assist Parties prepare for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

To: CBD National Focal Points



A detailed agenda and timetable, as well as documentation for the meeting, including an information note for participants, will be distributed by the Secretariat as soon as possible. A pre-registration form is available.

Parties are invited to communicate to the Secretariat the name and contact address of their officially designated delegate at the earliest convenience, but no later than **28 February 2002**.

Kindly note that the Secretariat will be in a position to assist financially the participation of **one delegate from each developing Party** to the preparatory meetings.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the work of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary