



Ref: SCBD/STTM/JM/ia

6 May 2002

Madam/Sir,

Nomination of Focal Points and/or Focal Persons

Pursuant to the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) contained in paragraph 18, Annex I of Decision IV/16 of the Conference of the Parties (COP), “a list of focal points and focal persons to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall be established and regularly updated by the Executive Secretary, on the basis of information provided by Parties and other relevant regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations”.

The purpose of this notification is to invite you to provide names of your SBSTTA focal points and/or focal persons or to make a new nomination if you would like to take this opportunity to review the appropriate location of the SBSTTA focal point in your country or your organization. You are invited to send your nomination at your earliest convenience but no later than **31 July 2002**. The CBD web site (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/lists/nfp-sbstta.pdf>) lists all the current SBSTTA focal points.

As you are probably aware, the Chair and Bureau of SBSTTA, responding to a request from COP, have been actively working to make SBSTTA a more effective technical body. The current chair and Bureau are now working to make further improvements including by further improving the technical focus of SBSTTA, encouraging countries to include appropriate expertise on their delegations, and increasing the interchange between SBSTTA and implementation bodies within countries.

To: All CBD National Focal Points and Heads of regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations dealing with biodiversity issues.



The role of SBSTTA focal points is to provide a point of contact between the technical body of the Convention and its Bureau, and the corresponding agencies that are working within countries or departments/divisions in relevant regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations. It is envisaged that SBSTTA focal points will receive technical information from SBSTTA and pass it on to relevant bodies within the country, and will act as a conduit for technical comments to the preparatory processes for SBSTTA. They may also be asked to help locate technical expertise for work such as peer-reviews. Communications with SBSTTA focal points will usually be copied to the national focal point, or be included in a summary of notifications to the national focal points.

It is the view of the Chair and the Bureau of SBSTTA that the role of SBSTTA focal points will generally best be fulfilled by the technical agency within the country or the division within organizations that has primary responsibility for implementation of the Convention and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Secretary by mail, fax (514-288-6588) or e-mail (secretariat@biodiv.org).

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary