



31 July 2002

**NOTIFICATION**

**Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group Meeting  
on dry and sub-humid lands**

**Montreal, Canada, 23 - 27 September 2002**

The decision to establish this Expert Group was taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in adopting the programme of work on dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems, also referred to as programme of work on "dry and sub-humid lands", at its fifth meeting (decision V/23, annex), in order to assist the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in its work on the topic of dry and sub-humid lands with the following tasks:

- Consolidate and assess information on the status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
- Possible establishment of an international network of dry and sub-humid areas of particular value for biodiversity;
- Indicators of the status and trends of biological diversity; monitoring and early warning systems;
- Processes affecting biodiversity;
- Global benefits derived from biodiversity and valuation of biodiversity;
- Socio-economic impacts of its loss, including the interrelationship between biodiversity and poverty;
- Measures taken for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (including the role of ex-situ conservation, resource management and preventive measures);
- Measures taken for the support of sustainable livelihoods;
- Consideration of capacity development, and the need of some Parties for assistance in seeking resources to develop proposals;
- Assessment of international priorities set up at the regional and global levels; and
- Proposals for expected outcomes, further activities, possible actors that may implement them, and timetables for action.

The recent decision (VI/4) adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (held in April 2002) requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the development of a mechanism to coordinate activities in the area of biodiversity,

To: National Focal Points of the CBD



desertification/land degradation and climate change, and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under the Convention to Combat Desertification.

Further to the notification dated 18 January 2002 inviting Parties to the Convention to nominate experts in the field of dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity and the notification dated 26 February 2002 conveying the composition of the group of selected experts (Annex I), I am pleased to inform you that the second meeting of the ad hoc technical expert group on dry and sub-humid lands will be held from 23 to 27 September 2002 in the premises of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada. The same group of experts were notified and will meet for the second and last time. The selection of experts was based on nominations by the Parties and organizations, taking into account the participants' demonstrated expertise and experience in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems, geographical distribution and gender balance. The experts were selected jointly with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The provisional agenda of the second meeting is provided in Annex II and is available on the Secretariat's website at [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

## **Annex I**

### **Selected experts for the second meeting of the ad hoc technical expert group on dry and sub-humid lands (Montreal, Canada, 23 – 27 September 2002)**

#### **Africa**

Mr. Lindsay CHONG-SENG (Seychelles)  
Ms. Delphine OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)  
Mr. Edison WOTHO (Botswana)

#### **Asia**

Dr. G.V. Sarat BABU (India)  
Dr. B.M.P. SINGHAKUMARA (Sri Lanka)  
Mr. Ys Borjigdkhan ADYASUREN (Mongolia)

#### **Latin America and Caribbean**

Mr. Leon Stanley SMITH (The Bahamas)  
Prof. J. F. DI STEFANO G. (Costa Rica)  
Dr. Víctor CANTÓN (Uruguay)

#### **Central and Eastern Europe**

Ms. Dalia GUDAITINE-HOLIMAN (Lithuania)  
Dr. Pavel NOVAK (Czech Republic)

#### **WEOG**

Dr. Gustave GINTZBURGER (France)  
Dr. Andreas TRAXLER (Austria)  
Mr. Roger SMITH (United Kingdom)  
Dr. Fernando VALLADARES (Spain)

#### **Indigenous and Local Communities**

Mr. Sem Taukondjo SHIKONGO (Namibia)  
Mr. Ken GOODWILL (Saskatchewan, Canada)

#### **SBSTTA Bureau**

Mr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel (Islamic Republic of Iran)

#### **Resource Person:**

Prof. Willem VAN COTTHEM (Belgium)

**Observers from the following organizations were invited:**

Comité Permanent inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (INSAH)  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank Group  
International Center for Agricultural Research In the Dry Areas (ICARDA)  
International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)  
IUCN The World Conservation Union  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (DESA)  
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
World Bank Group  
World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

## Annex II

### DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organizational matters
  - 2.1. Adoption of the agenda;
  - 2.2. Review of mandate and expected results;
  - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Review and finalization of results of the inter-sessional work of Working Group I on:
  - (a) Status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
  - (b) Indicators of the status and trends of biological diversity; monitoring and early warning systems;
  - (c) Possible establishment of an international network of dry and sub-humid areas of particular value for biodiversity; and
  - (d) Consideration of capacity development, and the need of some Parties for assistance in seeking resources to develop proposals.
4. Review and finalization of results of the inter-sessional work of Working Group II on:
  - (a) Processes affecting biodiversity;
  - (b) Assessment of the progress and the effects of the specific measures
  - (c) Global benefits derived from biodiversity and valuation of biodiversity; and
  - (d) Socio-economic impacts of biodiversity loss, including the interrelationship between biodiversity and poverty.
5. Priority-setting
  - (a) Assessment of international priorities set up at the regional and global levels;
  - (b) Proposals for expected outcomes, further activities, possible actors that may implement them, and timetables for action.
6. Mechanism to coordinate activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change and integration of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the National Action Programmes under the Convention to Combat Desertification.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

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