



Ref.: UNEP/CBD/STTM/JM/dh/31245

8 October 2002

NOTIFICATION

**Re: Expert meeting on methods and guidelines for the rapid assessment of
biological diversity of inland water ecosystems**

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Bureau, is organizing in Montreal, Canada, from Monday 2 to Wednesday 4 December 2002, an expert meeting to: (i) review methods for assessing biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and identify rapid assessment methods applicable to all types of inland water ecosystems, in particular in small island developing States and in territories where inland water ecosystems suffer from ecological disasters; and (ii) develop regional guidelines for the application of these methods.

In paragraphs 6 and 7 of the programme of work on inland waters ecosystems in the annex to its decision IV/4, the Conference of the Parties recognized the immediate threats to the inland water ecosystems and associated biological diversity of small island States and territories suffering from ecological disasters. The Conference of the Parties therefore requested the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to pay special attention to early cooperation with the small island States and States where inland water ecosystems suffer from ecological disasters in the development of rapid-assessment methodologies

In addition, in paragraphs 6 and 8 of its recommendation VI/5 on scientific assessments, SBSTTA decided to initiate some pilot assessment projects including the development of rapid assessment methods for the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems, in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

In this regard, I would appreciate if your Government could submit to the Secretariat the name and curriculum vitae of an expert in the field of inland water biodiversity assessment, **no later than 1 November 2002**. Participants in the expert meeting will be selected among the nominated experts on the basis of their expertise, the need to ensure adequate regional balance, as well as gender balance.

To: All CBD National Focal Points



- 2 -

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support of the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary