



11 February 2003

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NOTIFICATION

**Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House
Mechanism
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 24-26 February 2003**

In its decision VI/10, paragraph 28, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to establish a technical expert group to develop the roles and responsibilities of the thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on issues related to Article 8(j) and related provisions, in accordance with task 8 of the programme of work adopted by the COP in decision V/16.

In paragraph 24 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and Governments, and, as appropriate, international organizations to encourage and support the development of communication mechanisms, such as the Indigenous Biodiversity Information Network (IBIN) among indigenous and local communities in response to their need for better understanding of the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and for supporting discussions on guidelines, priorities, timelines and the implementation of the thematic programmes of the Convention.

Other decisions relevant to the development of an indigenous thematic focal point, include paragraph 10 of decision VI/19, which “Invites indigenous people's organizations, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations to include communication, education and public awareness in their relevant activities and to support the global initiative on education and public awareness according to the conditions established in the annex to the present decision”, and paragraph 5 of decision VI/18, which “Urges the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with existing international networks of indigenous and local communities and, as appropriate, national focal points, to assist in the further development of communication networks for use by these communities, with an initial emphasis on information-sharing formats, protocols and standards, having regard to ethical issues pertaining to traditional knowledge. These networks would not be used to exchange or disclose traditional knowledge.”

To: National Focal Points
Indigenous and local community organizations





Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat

In view of the above, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House Mechanism will be meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 24 to 26 February 2003. The selection of experts for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House Mechanism has been determined by the Executive Secretary, taking into consideration the need for geographical balance, on the basis of nominations received from Governments and relevant organizations, as requested in the notification of 30 August 2002 to all Parties and indigenous and local communities.

I am pleased to convey herewith the list of experts selected to participate in the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House Mechanism. The list is provided in Annex I.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary



United Nations
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Annex I
LIST OF SELECTED EXPERTS, PRESENTERS AND OBSERVERS

Selected Experts

Africa

Jean Celestin Tchouen, Cameroon

Lucy Mulenkei, African Indigenous Women Organization, Kenya

Asia and Pacific

Jack G.L. Medrana, Tebtebba Foundation, The Philippines

Glen Kelly, Western Australian Aboriginal Native Title Working Group, Australia

Tarita Holm, Palau

Europe

Erwin Kuenzi, Austria

Rune Sverre Fjellheim, Saami Council, Norway

Vladimir N. Bocharnikov, Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North, Russian Federation

North America

Robert McFetridge, Canada

Tamara Dionne-Stout, Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada

South America

Alejandro Argumedo, Asociación ANDES, Peru

Antonio Jacanamijoy, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Colombia

Edwin Vasquez Campos, COICA, Peru

Esther Camac, Asociación IXACAVAA de Desarrollo e Información Indígena, Costa Rica

Gonzalo Oviedo, Ecuador

Jorge Nahuel, Mapuche de Neuquén, Argentina

Onel Masardule Arias, Fundación para la Promoción del conocimiento Indígena, Panama

Presenters

Miriam Fleming, Environmental Committee of the Municipality of Sanikiluaq, Canada

Preston Hardison, Tulalip Tribes of Washington, United States of America

Sebastian Jake, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, Australia

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes of Washington, United States of America





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Observers

Carlos Mamani Condori, Centro de Estudios Aymara (CEA), Bolivia

John Clark, United States of America

María Eugenia Choque Quispe, Centro de Estudios Aymara (CEA), Bolivia

María Ripa de Marconi, Bolivia

Ovidio Roca, Bolivia



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