



Ref: SCBD/RMCS/BS/MR-H/34076

19 February 2003

**NOTIFICATION**

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Subject: Establishment of the General Trust Fund (BF) to Support Developing Country Parties on Biosafety Issues**

I have the honour to inform you that further to Decision VI/29.27 of the Conference of the Parties establishing, on a pilot basis, a trust fund for voluntary contributions to pay for the use by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, of experts from the Roster of Experts, the "General Trust Fund (BF) to Support Developing Country Parties on Biosafety Issues" has now been officially established and pledges and contributions to the BF Trust Fund are now welcome.

As recommended by the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-3), the trust fund will be administered by the Executive Secretary according to the Interim Guidelines for the Pilot Phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, pending their adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. I encourage you to review the Interim Guidelines, which are contained in the recommendations of ICCP-3 and are also accessible via the Biosafety Clearing-House at <http://bch.biodiv.org/>.

All contributions to this Trust Fund should be deposited in the UNEP Trust Fund Account, and specific reference should be made identifying the contribution as for the BF Trust Fund.

The Secretariat wishes to encourage all Parties to contribute generously to the BF Trust Fund in order that Roster of Experts on Biosafety can begin to be used by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition.

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

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points  
Biosafety Protocol Focal Points

