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14 March 2003

NOTIFICATION

Dear Madam, Sir,

Subject: Establishment of BirdLife International as an International Thematic Focal Point

Pursuant to paragraph c, Annex II of decision V/14, I wish to advise you that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has received endorsements from three national focal points for the establishment of BirdLife International (<http://www.birdlife.net>) as an international thematic focal point under the clearing-house mechanism (CHM).

As an international thematic focal point, BirdLife International will make data on avian biological diversity, especially on threatened bird species, important bird areas (IBAs) and endemic bird areas (EBAs) available to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), through the CHM. In addition, it will contribute relevant information on avian biological diversity to the work of the Secretariat, especially in the development and implementation of work programmes on terrestrial and marine biological diversity and for the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). Finally, BirdLife International will also make data on avian biological diversity available to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for, *inter alia*, national clearing-house mechanisms, national reports and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, through the Clearing-house Mechanism and through BirdLife national Partner organizations.

This cooperative arrangement will assist the clearing-house mechanism to synergize new collaborative activities and promote the sharing of expertise and information, particularly within the context of activities listed under Annex II of decision V/14 and decision VI/18. Indeed, the establishment of BirdLife International as an international thematic focal points is indicative of new efforts by the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate more effectively technical and scientific cooperation, especially in support of activities in the programme areas and cross-cutting-issues of the Convention.

To: CBD National Focal Points
CHM National Focal Points
Informal Advisory Committee



Relevant international organizations

More information on international thematic focal points is available on the Convention's web site at: <http://www.biodiv.org/chm/tfp.asp#>

We would appreciate greatly your advice on the establishment of additional international thematic focal points, particularly in the context of decisions from the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (<http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/>).

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary