



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SECRETARIAT

Ref.: SCBD/I&O/BK/av/34285

25 March 2003

NOTIFICATION

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Subject: Meeting on “2010 - The Global Biodiversity Challenge”
21 – 23 May 2003, London, UK**

At its sixth meeting, in decision VI/26, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity committing Parties to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and, to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level. This decision was endorsed by the Hague Ministerial Declaration and also adopted by the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

In response to this decision and its endorsement at the highest political levels, I am pleased to inform you that I have convened a meeting, with the support of UNEP-WCMC and UNDP, to discuss this internationally agreed target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. This meeting will take place in **London, United Kingdom from 21 to 23 May 2003** with the overall aim of articulating a framework for action for achieving the 2010 target. The specific objectives of convening the meeting are:

- a) To review means in place for achieving the target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;
- b) To review and agree on approaches for measuring and assessing achievements towards meeting the 2010 target; and
- c) To review and agree on the most appropriate approaches for reporting on progress.

In planning for this meeting, the Secretariat of the Convention is seeking the support and involvement of a wide range of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, and other relevant organizations.

The meeting will bring together approximately 150 participants including Government nominated experts and representatives of biodiversity-related conventions and relevant organizations. The outcome of the meeting will be submitted to the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in November 2003 and to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in April 2004.

To: CBD National Focal Points



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Tel: (514) 288.22.20
Fax: (514) 288.65.88

Email: secretariat@biodiv.org
Web: www.biodiv.org

World Trade Centre
393 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 300
Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9

I would appreciate it if your Government could submit names and curriculum vitae of suitably qualified experts to the Secretariat, **no later than 15 April 2003**, in order to facilitate the selection of Government representatives in the meeting. In submitting names of experts, governments are invited to bear in mind the need to ensure the availability of expertise to address issues relating to the three objectives of the meeting. Government-representatives will be selected on the basis of expertise to provide substantive contributions to the meeting, which will be conducted in English only, the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, as well as gender balance.

The Secretariat will cover the participation costs of a limited number of Government-nominated invitees from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, subject to the availability of financial resources. This support will be provided on a *first-come-first-serve* basis whilst ensuring that there is equitable geographical balance in the representation. A draft agenda for the meeting and other discussion documents are currently under preparation and will be sent to the nominated invitees in the coming days. In addition, the Secretariat will also send to the invitees an information note containing details of the logistical arrangements for the meeting, including information on travel arrangements, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters.

In order to prepare adequately for the meeting, I encourage the nominated invitees to review their respective on-going and planned biodiversity related activities in the context of the Strategic Plan for the Convention and more specifically to reflect on how best these activities could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the meeting.

I wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and for your continued support of the work of the Convention.

Please accept Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

PLEASE SEND THE NAME OF YOUR NOMINATED EXPERT (ALONG WITH HER/HIS CV AND ANY OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION) TO:

**Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
393 St. Jacques Street West, Suite 300
Montreal, Quebec,
CANADA H2Y 1N2
Fax: +1 (514) 288 6588
E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org**