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13 June 2003

NOTIFICATION

Date of entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to advise that the 50th instrument of ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was deposited today with the Depository in New York. In accordance with its Article 37, the Protocol will therefore enter into force on 11 September 2003. To date, the Parties to the Protocol are:

Africa (13):	Botswana, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania;
Asia/Pacific (10):	Bhutan, Fiji, India, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Oman, Samoa ;
Central and Eastern Europe (7):	Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Ukraine;
Latin America/Carribbean (11):	Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela;
Western Europe and Other Groups (9+EC):	Austria, Denmark, European Community, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that have already ratified or acceded to the Protocol and urge the remaining countries to do so at their earliest convenience.

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

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: ICCP National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where ICCP focal points have not yet been designated)

