



Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/dh/36339

13 August 2003

NOTIFICATION

Dear Madam/Sir,

Subject: Liaison Group Meeting on protected areas to be held at the Hilton Durban Hotel in Durban, South Africa, on 18 September 2003

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will consider at its seventh meeting in February 2004 protected areas as one of its three themes for in-depth consideration. In preparation for this meeting, an *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas met from 10 to 14 June 2003 in Tjärnö, Sweden. The group reviewed a number of issues relating, *inter alia*, to the planning, establishment and management of protected areas; status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas; stakeholders involvement; and ecological networks. The group also identified elements for a programme of work on protected areas for the Convention of Biological Diversity.

The Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting recognized the importance of the World Commission on Protected Areas for the implementation of the relevant provisions of Article 8 of the Convention. In paragraph 2 of decision VI/30, the Conference of the Parties encouraged the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Vth World Parks Congress (WPC). The World Commission on Protected Areas participated in the work of the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a member of the steering committee of the World Parks Congress. At its fifth meeting to be held in Durban, South Africa from 8 to 17 September 2003, the World Parks Congress will consider many issues of particular importance for the future of protected areas.

I am convening a meeting of a Liaison Group on Protected Areas that will assist the Secretariat in preparing a document for submission to the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice drawing on the outputs of the Congress that will complement the work of the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert

To: All CBD National Focal Points
SBSTTA Focal Points



United Nations
Environment
Programme

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

E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org
Web: www.biodiv.org

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

Group on Protected Areas. The meeting will be held immediately after the Congress, on 18 September 2003 in the Hilton Durban Hotel in Durban, South Africa.

It is expected that some members of the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas as well as WPC Stream Leaders, Symposium Leaders, members or Moderators of discussion panels will participate.

The purpose of this notification is just for the information of CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary