

Ref: SCBD/I&O/BK/AV/45574

28 October 2004

NOTIFICATION

Dear Madam/Sir,

Subject: Report of Workshop “*Towards the Harmonization of National Reporting under Biodiversity-related Treaties*”

The Conference of the Parties, in decisions VI/25 and VII/25, encouraged the Executive Secretary to continue to participate in the ongoing efforts to harmonize and streamline the national reporting processes of the Convention with those of other biodiversity-related conventions and processes with a view to reduce reporting burdens on Parties. To follow up with these decisions, the Executive Secretary has actively participated in a number of relevant processes and activities coordinated by UNEP-WCMC in this field.

As you may be aware, the most recent relevant activity in this process was a workshop “*Towards the Harmonization of National Reporting under Biodiversity-related Treaties*”, which was held in Haasrode, Belgium from 22 to 23 September 2004. The objective of the workshop was to review the outcomes and recommendations from four pilot projects on harmonisation and streamlining of national reporting processes, as well as other on-going reporting harmonisation initiatives and developments with a view to identifying possible actions that could further support national reporting processes. The workshop was convened by UNEP-WCMC in cooperation with the governments of Belgium and the UK and with financial support from the governments of Belgium, the UK and Germany.

The workshop was attended by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Migratory Species, World Heritage Convention, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement and the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, eight countries and experts from a range of international organizations and regional bodies attended the meeting.

To: CBD National Focal Points



On the basis of the discussions, the workshop generated a number of recommendations for further follow-up concerning, among others, the purpose and focus of reporting, coordination at national and international levels, national information management issues, possible actions for consideration by the individual conventions and their respective contracting parties including web portal reporting, capacity building and the identification of additional approaches to enhance harmonisation of reporting processes.

It is my pleasure to submit for your attention and consideration, the report of the workshop, which provides more detailed information about the workshop discussions and its recommendations. I would like to draw your particular attention to recommendations (iv), (v), (x), and (xi) contained in the report of the workshop for actions at national level.

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

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary