



CBD

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

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NOTIFICATION

Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Southern and Eastern Africa on Capacity Building for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

Dear Madam/Sir

I am pleased to inform you that a sub-regional workshop for countries of Southern and Eastern Africa on Capacity Building for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans will be held in **South Africa** from **4 to 8 February 2008**, organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa and with the generous financial support of Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany.

This is one in a series of regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops to be organized during 2008, in response to paragraph 6 of Decision VIII/8 by which the Conference of the Parties recommended that regional and/or sub-regional workshops be convened to discuss national experiences in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including consideration of obstacles and ways and means for overcoming the obstacles. The importance of convening these workshops was highlighted at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (Paris, July 9-13 2007). Further information on these workshops is available at: www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops.shtml.

The purpose of the workshop is to strengthen national capacity for the development, implementation, reviewing and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, through exchange of experiences and training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms. The workshop will provide an opportunity for countries to identify ways and means for overcoming challenges in the implementation of NBSAPs. A major focus of this workshop will be the integration of biodiversity into national strategies for poverty eradication, and the results of the workshop will inform the ongoing review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan to be considered by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008.

To: National Focal Points of CBD Parties of Southern and Eastern Africa



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In light of the above, I am pleased to invite you to nominate a representative to participate in this workshop at your earliest convenience, but no later than **1 December 2007**.

In submitting nominations, Parties are requested to note that the representative should be responsible for the development and/or implementation of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan and should be in a position to prepare and present a report on progress made in the development, implementation, reviewing and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors (for example, by using the voluntary guidelines annexed to Decision VIII/8). Moreover, following the workshop, the representative should be in a position to translate the capacity gained into concrete actions in support of national implementation. Please note that the workshop will be held in English.

Participants from eligible Parties will be provided with air travel, accommodation, meals and an allowance for incidental costs according to UN rules. In submitting nominations, I request that you provide full contact details including email addresses, so that we can follow up with nominees on further details about the workshop.

We look forward to receiving your nominations, and I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary