

Ref.: SCBD/OES/AD/69366

26 October 2009

NOTIFICATION

Sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity on "Getting the biodiversity targets right - working for sustainable development", Trondheim, Norway, 1 - 5 February 2010

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to draw your attention to the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, entitled "Getting the biodiversity targets right - working for sustainable development", which will be held on 1 - 5 February 2010 in Trondheim, Norway. The conference will be hosted by the Norwegian Government in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The five Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity held since 1993 have provided an opportunity for policy makers, managers and scientists to provide a constructive, transparent and scientifically sound basis for key issues being discussed under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The upcoming conference in February will consider status and lessons learned from the 2010 target and will provide CBD with a sound basis for developing post 2010 biodiversity targets. It will provide science-based input for the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) and the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3), both meetings to be held in Nairobi in May 2010. The conference will also contribute to UNEP efforts on biodiversity issues and processes and to celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. A conference program is being developed that includes scientific studies, policy presentations, practical case-studies and group discussions that will provide participants with insights and inspiration.

Attachments

To: CBD and SBSTTA National Focal Points

In a letter of 23 October 2009, the Norwegian Minister for Environment and International Development Cooperation, Mr. Erik Solheim, invites all member states of the UN to attend this sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity. A copy of this invitation is attached herewith.

The Conference will bring together up to 300 participants, and two representatives from each country may attend the Conference. The Norwegian Government is prepared to provide travel support for one participant from each country, eligible for such support.

The deadline for registration is set for **7 December 2009**, and kindly note that all registration forms should be accompanied by a confirmation letter from the CBD National Focal Point, and sent directly to the Conference Secretariat at trondheim.conference@dirnat.no. An information note and a registration form are attached to this notification.

Invitations are also being sent to relevant UN entities and to selected (mainly international) organizations and institutions that are instrumental in the implementation of the CBD. Further information on the Conference is available on its home page at www.trondheimconference.org, and you may also contact the Conference Secretariat in the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management at trondheim.conference@dirnat.no.

The sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity is expected to make an important contribution to the preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10), to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, and we hope that many countries will be able to participate in this important meeting.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To UN member countries

Your ref

Our ref
200903443-/BIV

Date

23 OKT 2009

**Invitation to the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity on
“Getting the biodiversity targets right – working for sustainable
development”, in Trondheim, Norway, 1 - 5 February 2010**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is a great pleasure for me to draw your attention to the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, which will be held in Trondheim from 1 to 5 February 2010. The conference is hosted by the Government of Norway in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program and the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference will be a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

The five Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity held since 1993 have provided an opportunity for policy makers, managers and scientists to come together and discuss key issues under the Convention on Biological Diversity. I also believe the conferences helped build important bridges between science and policy.

This time the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity will consider status and lessons learned from the current 2010 target and focus on future targets, beyond 2010. The targets should be understandable, measurable and useful. They also need to show that biodiversity is critical for environmental as well as economic and social aspects of sustainable development.

We hope that the Conference will provide important input to the upcoming meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as to the United Nations General Assembly Session in autumn 2010.

I am pleased to invite your country to nominate experts to participate at this conference, preferably with involvement in the processes towards defining the post 2010 biodiversity targets. Please be informed that the deadline for registration is 7 December 2009.

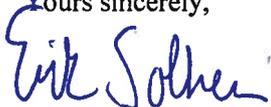
Due to the size of the conference facilities, participation will be limited to a maximum of 300 participants, and therefore we request countries to limit their delegation to no more than two participants. The conference language will be English.

Through a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian government is prepared on request to provide travel support for one participant from each country eligible for such support.

Please find enclosed an Information Note with more detailed information about the conference. The main organiser of the conference will be the Directorate for nature management, and further information can also be obtained from their home page at www.trondheimconference.org or by contacting their Conference Secretariat at trondheim.conference@dirnat.no.

I strongly believe the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity will help us in developing ambitious post 2010 biodiversity targets. I sincerely hope to see your country represented in Trondheim in February.

Yours sincerely,



Erik Solheim

Attachments:

- Information note on preparations for the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity
- Registration form for country delegates

Copy:

- National Focal Points for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD NFPs)
- United Nations Environment Program, PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya
- Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, 413 Saint Jacques Street, suite 800, Montreal QC H2Y 1N9, Canada
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P.O. Box 8114 Dep., N-0032 Oslo
- Directorate for nature management, N-7485 Trondheim



TRONDHEIM
CONFERENCES ON
BIODIVERSITY

Information note on the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biological Diversity, to be held in Trondheim, Norway, 1 – 5 February 2010

“GETTING THE BIODIVERSITY TARGETS RIGHT - WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

The Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

The five Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity held since 1993 have provided an opportunity for policy makers, managers and scientists to provide a constructive, transparent and scientifically sound basis for key issues being discussed under the Convention on biological diversity (CBD).

The sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity will be held 1 – 5 February 2010 in Trondheim, Norway, and this information note provides information about conference objectives, program outline, conference outputs and organisational and practical information on preparations and participation.

The conference will consider status and lessons learned from the 2010 target and will provide CBD with a sound basis for developing post 2010 biodiversity targets.

The conference will be hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment on behalf of the Norwegian government, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and other relevant Norwegian ministries.

Conference objectives

The Trondheim conferences provide a forum where participants are updated on and exchange views on key issues of relevance to CBD, providing a platform that stimulates discussion and does not need consensus on issues. The conferences create a transparent, positive and constructive atmosphere that bridges science and policy and develops recommendations based on the best possible scientific data and information. Earlier conferences have contributed constructively to progress on key issues under the CBD, and have also provided capacity building, inspiration and networking opportunities for participants.

The sixth Trondheim Conferences will provide science-based input for the fourteenth meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) and for the third meeting of CBD's Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI-3), both meetings to be held in Nairobi in May 2010. The timing of the conference is such that outcomes can be integrated into the documents to be available for the two meetings.

In particular, the conference will contribute to item 3.4 of the proposed SBSTTA-14 agenda, on “Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators, and consideration of their possible adjustments for the period beyond 2010”.

Through this, the outcomes of the Trondheim Conference will also feed into the preparatory processes for the United Nations General Assembly Session in 2010 such as the UNEP Special Session of the Governing Council and Global Ministers of Environment Forum (GC/GMEF), ongoing efforts through the Environment Management Group (EMG) to provide consolidated inputs into defining the future elements of the global biodiversity targets from UN Agencies, and to the tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

Based on the characteristics of the Trondheim Conference and on consideration of the need for providing scientific inputs to key issues to be discussed under the CBD and in UNEP in 2010, the following objectives have been set for the conference:

- Increase understanding and awareness of scientific, technical and policy issues facing SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3 and provide a sound basis for developing a post 2010 biodiversity target framework
- Contribute to UNEP’s efforts on biodiversity issues and processes and to celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010
- Provide increased knowledge and understanding as well as inspiration for participants on issues relevant to setting post 2010 biodiversity targets.

Conference outputs

Based on the objectives outlined above and on the specific need for developing input to SBSTTA-14, the following outputs will be produced from the Trondheim conference:

- Chairs’ Report, containing the Conference Chairs’ conclusions and recommendations made on the basis of presentations and discussions in the conference.
- Conference Proceedings, containing *inter alia* all presentations, scientific input, written output from group discussions and a list of participants.
- Specific messages tailored for other audiences, which may include UNGA, UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) General Assembly session.

The above outputs, conference presentations and other conference material will all be made available on the conference home page. The conference may also provide input to the CBD Secretariat for their finalization of documentation for SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3.

There will in 2009 and 2010 be a number of other meetings and conferences that are relevant to the objectives of the 2010 Trondheim Conference, and we are actively seeking to avoid duplication and to use the comparative advantages of this type of meeting place.

Program outline

The program is presently being developed and finalized, building on the following preliminary program outline:

Monday 1 February

- High level opening statements, including from the Mayor of Trondheim, the Norwegian government, UNEP, the SCBD and the CBD COP presidency.
- Overview presentations for setting the stage, including on ‘Tracking progress toward the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond’ and on ‘moving towards an updated CBD Strategic Plan and post-2010 biodiversity target’.

- Keynote addresses by noted experts on emerging and important issues for setting post 2010 biodiversity targets, including the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services (TEEB) development and poverty alleviation perspectives, and large scale negative impacts affecting also biodiversity and ecosystem services

Tuesday 2 February

- Scientific/technical presentations on presenting and arguing for the economic case for biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Sector perspectives on the importance of ecosystem services, including as seen from relevant United Nations agencies and organizations
- Breakout session with discussion groups on the economic importance of biodiversity and ecosystems and on communicating relevance to other stakeholders.

Wednesday 3 February

- Scientific/technical presentations on large-scale serious future challenges related to biodiversity and ecosystems, including biodiversity futures and ecosystem boundaries
- Scientific/technical presentations on key challenges and implications for governance and for addressing economic sectors and drivers of biodiversity loss

Thursday 4 February

- Scientific/technical presentations on experiences and lessons learned from addressing biodiversity loss, including drivers such as climate change
- Scientific/technical presentations on good linkages between targets and indicators
- Breakout session with discussion groups on lessons learned from the '2010 target' and on the setting of post 2010 biodiversity targets

Friday 5 February

- Completing the draft Chairmen's Report on 'Getting the biodiversity targets right'
- Closing session, including presentation of Chairmen's Report and closing address

All sessions will include a critical review of themes/issues and their relevance for post 2010 targets and for consideration of communication and measurement aspects. There will also be presentation of output from other key events related to the development of post 2010 biodiversity targets. A social and cultural program will also be developed for all participants.

Participation

Invitations to the conference are in October being sent through diplomatic channels from the Norwegian Minister of Environment and Development Co-operation to all Member States of the United Nations, with copies to CBD National Focal Points. Invitations will also be sent to relevant UN agencies and international and non-governmental organisations.

Due to the size of the conference facilities, participation will be limited to a maximum of 300 participants, and countries are being requested to limit their delegation to no more than two participants. The conference language will be English.

Through a grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are prepared to provide travel support for participants from countries eligible for such support, i.e. countries listed on OECD's 'DAC List of ODA Recipients (Effective for reporting on 2009 and 2010 flows)'.

Information on visa requirements and application details may be found on the home page for the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) at www.udi.no.

The 2010 Trondheim Conference will take place at the Royal Garden Hotel in the centre of the City of Trondheim, with all necessary facilities and attractions within walking distance.

Preparing and organising the 2010 conference

The conference will be hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (MoE) on behalf of the Norwegian government, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and other relevant Norwegian ministries.

In addition to UNEP and SCBD, the Norwegian government will also draw on a number of other key stakeholders in preparing the conference, including the scientific community, relevant international organisations and the CBD SBSTTA Bureau.

Conference Chairmen will be Peter Johan Schei, Director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), and Finn Katerås, Project manager in the Directorate for nature management.

Preparations for the conference in Norway will be guided by an Interministerial Advisory Group, chaired by Deputy Director General Birthe Ivars of the Ministry of the Environment.

The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN) will be responsible for organizing the conference and will host the Conference Secretariat. DN is the executive and advisory agency on biodiversity management in Norway, reporting to the Ministry of the Environment, and is the Norwegian SBSTTA focal point.

Preparing and organising the conference will be done in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), the Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU), the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre (Artsdatabanken), the City of Trondheim and Sør-Trøndelag County Authority.

Further information

Information on earlier conferences and on the 2010 conference will be made available through the Conference home page at www.trondheimconference.org.

You may also contact the Conference Secretariat at the Directorate for nature management for further information at:

E-mail: trondheim.conference@dirnat.no

Telephone: +47 73 58 05 00

Address: N-7485 Trondheim, Norway

Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (MD)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Secretariat of the Convention on biological diversity (SCBD)

Norwegian Directorate for nature management (DN)

Version 22 October 2009



TRONDHEIM
CONFERENCES ON
BIODIVERSITY

'Getting the biodiversity targets right – working for sustainable development'

Trondheim, Norway, 1 – 5 February 2010

REGISTRATION FORM FOR COUNTRY DELEGATES

Please type or use block letters and return this form to the Conference Secretariat at your earliest convenience, **by 7 December 2009** at the latest (in order to secure good travel arrangements and necessary immigration formalities for many of the participants).

Family name: _____

First name: _____

Title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Telefax: _____

E-mail: _____

In order to facilitate assistance to participants, please check the following where applicable:

- Confirmation from the CBD National Focal Point is attached or has been submitted.
- I represent a country eligible for travel support (according to OECD's DAC List of ODA Recipients for 2009 and 2010) and will require financial support for participation.

Please note that block hotel bookings have been made, and that information on available hotels and details on booking will be provided after registration.

All registered delegates will be contacted regarding possible assistance with travel arrangements, visa requirements and in case of specific requirements that participants may have.

This registration form should be sent to the Conference Secretariat, preferably by e-mail to trondheim.conference@dirnat.no, or by telefax to (+ 47) 73 58 05 01, or by post to the Directorate for nature management, N-7485 Trondheim, Norway.
