

Ref.: SCBD/BS/GF/ABw/70446

4 February 2010

## NOTIFICATION

### Participation in the UNEP-GEF Project “BCH II: Continued enhancement of building capacity for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)”

Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that, in response to Decision BS-IV/2 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP), the Global Environment Facility Council, at its meeting held in November 2009, approved the UNEP-GEF Project for Continued Enhancement of National Capacities for Effective Participation in the BCH. This second global project is intended to further assist countries in effectively utilizing the BCH, building on the experiences, methods and achievements of the first BCH Project.

As you may be aware, on 19 December 2009, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) issued an invitation to eligible countries to participate in the project. Accordingly, I am writing to remind you that the approved project will be open to the first 50 eligible countries that express interest in participating through a letter of endorsement to UNEP. Kindly note that this letter of endorsement must be signed by the GEF Operational Focal Point (a list of the national GEF focal points is available at <http://www.gefweb.org/interior.aspx?id=212>).

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Be a Party to the Cartagena Protocol;
  - Be a developing country or a country with an economy in transition;
  - Have completed the UNEP-GEF National Biosafety Framework Development project and the BCH Phase I project;
- OR
- Have initiated NBF Implementation through a prior or ongoing GEF project

The endorsement letters should be addressed and sent to: The Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C/UNEP), P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya, or email at [bakary.kante@unep.org](mailto:bakary.kante@unep.org), or by fax at +254 20 762 4300.

With regards to any enquiries regarding the project, please direct them to Ms. Margaret Oduk, Project Task Manager, email: [margaret.oduk@unep.org](mailto:margaret.oduk@unep.org) or telephone at +254 20 7623465.

I take this opportunity to thank you for the support your Government has provided to date to the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and look forward to your continued cooperation.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB-NFPs)  
cc: National Focal Points for the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH-NFPs)