



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CG/ET/jh/75002

15 February 2011

NOTIFICATION

GEF Support for the Preparation of the Second National Reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Madam/Sir,

In its decisions BS-IV/5, paragraph 4(b), and BS-V/5, paragraph 4(c), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) urged the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP), in its further guidance to the financial mechanism, to request the GEF to make available, in a timely manner, financial resources to eligible Parties to enable them prepare their second national reports under the Protocol. The COP communicated this request to the GEF in its decisions IX/31 C (paragraph 5(c)) and X/25 (paragraph 20(c)).

I am pleased to inform you that the GEF has set aside funds for eligible Parties to prepare their second national reports. The funds can be accessed from the GEF Secretariat in two ways:

First, eligible Parties may submit an enabling activity proposal through one of the GEF Implementing Agencies as has been the standard practice. The format can be found on the GEF website at: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/3891>.

The second option is to access the funds directly from the GEF Secretariat. The GEF Secretariat is making arrangements to make funds available for the Execution of Selected GEF Enabling Activities through Direct Access by Recipient Countries under the new procedures (GEF/C.38/6/Rev.1) which were approved by the GEF Council at its 38th meeting in July 2010.¹ In this regard, the GEF Operational Focal Point would have to submit to the GEF Secretariat a project proposal for the preparation of the national report, using a standard template which will be available on the GEF website soon. Countries would also have to select a national agency to act as the executing agency for the project. Once the proposal is approved, the GEF Secretariat will send the funds directly to the selected national executing agency.

¹ The new GEF policies and procedures for the Direct Access by Recipient Countries are described in document GEF/C.38/6/Rev.1 available at: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/meetingdocs/97/401>.

To: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where CPB focal points have not yet been designated)

cc: GEF Operational Focal Points



Upon completion of the project, the recipient country would have to submit the national report to the CBD Secretariat with a copy sent to the GEF Secretariat and also send to the GEF Secretariat an Audited Financial Report on how the money was spent. In accordance with COP-MOP decisions BS-1/9 (paragraph 5) and BS-V/14, the second national reports should be submitted to the CBD Secretariat by 30 September 2011, i.e. at least 12 months before the sixth COP-MOP, which is scheduled to take place from 1-5 October 2012 in India.

As you may be aware, a number of other important processes under the Protocol, including the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and the comprehensive review of the capacity-building Action Plan to be undertaken by COP-MOP 6, will depend on the information provided by Parties in those reports. The second national reports will also be used to establish the baseline data against which progress with the implementation of the recently adopted Strategic Plan of the Protocol will be measured. Thus, it is very critical that Parties submit their reports in a timely manner.

I therefore wish to urge all eligible countries to use the new expedited procedure described above to apply for GEF funding as soon as possible in order to prepare and submit their second national reports before **30 September 2011**.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary