



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/SBG/lj/75438

23 March 2011

NOTIFICATION

Sub-Regional Workshop for West Africa on Capacity Building for Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Dear Madam/Sir,

In paragraph 7a of decision X/31 on protected areas, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requested the Executive Secretary to continue to hold regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops, with special attention to element 2 on *governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing* of the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA), and other identified priorities with specific timetables for planning and funding, developing cooperation with regional and sub-regional convention agreements, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, technical networks, and other partners.

Accordingly, the Executive Secretary, with the generous financial assistance of the European Union, is organizing a Sub-Regional Workshop for West Africa on Capacity Building for Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas to be held from 22 to 26 May 2011 in Dakar, Senegal, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Conservation of Senegal, the Regional Program for Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa (PRCM), and the PoWPA Friends Consortium.

The objective of the workshop is to build capacity to (i) create a national action plan for implementation of the PoWPA, (ii) access funding based on these action plans, and (ii) strengthen implementation of the PoWPA on the themes of governance, climate change (including integrating protected areas into the wider land and seascape), sustainable financing, and valuation of the costs and benefits of protected areas, with a focus on marine protected areas where applicable. The provisional agenda and other meeting documents will soon be available on the CBD website (www.cbd.int/meetings/).

I am pleased to invite you to nominate one representative of your government, at your earliest convenience, but not later than **8 April 2011**, to participate in the workshop. The Secretariat will be in a position to finance the participation of one representative from eligible Parties. Parties are requested to use the following criteria while submitting their nomination:

To CBD and PoWPA Focal Points¹ in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

1. The COP requested Parties (para A21 of IX/18) to designate a national focal point for the PoWPA in support of the Convention's national focal point. In West Africa, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Senegal have yet to designate a protected area focal point.

- The country representative should be **involved in the implementation** of the PoWPA; and
- After the workshop, the representative should be in a position to **translate the knowledge gained into concrete actions**.

Unless the nominee is the current PoWPA Focal Point, nominations must include full contact details and be accompanied by *curriculum vitae* clearly indicating the areas of expertise of the nominee. CBD focal points should provide the name and contact details of their nominee via **official letter** addressed to the Executive Secretary which should reach the Secretariat **no later than 8 April 2011** (faxed to +1 (514) 288-6588, or scanned and attached to an email addressed to secretariat@cbd.int). Please note that the workshop will be held in English and French. Interpretation between French and English will be provided.

Note that this workshop is held in parallel with the Regional Workshop for West Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (22-26 May) organized by the Secretariat of the CBD in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Conservation of Senegal and the PRCM, and back-to-back with a financing round table (27 May) for PRCM countries organized by the CBD LifeWeb Initiative and supported by PRCM for which a separate notification is issued.

I look forward to receiving your nominations. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and for your continued support for the work of the Convention.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary