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17 June 2011

NOTIFICATION

Implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

Pursuant to Decision X/22 on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, requesting the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the Plan of Action at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties and encouraging Parties and other Governments to implement it, as appropriate, in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to report on their activities in the fifth national report of the Parties to the Convention, I would like to reiterate the importance of monitoring and reporting tools on the implementation of the Convention at the local level, such as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (SI), which is currently being tested by over 85 cities.

The decision also requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare an assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, based on the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. In this light, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to encourage sub-national governments, cities and local authorities to send, to the Secretariat, information on the application of the SI before 31 December 2011 to report on their biodiversity-related activities at the World Cities Summit 2012 to take place in early July 2012 in Singapore. Furthermore, I would also like to welcome substantive contributions to Cities and Biodiversity Outlook in its first edition, being prepared through the kind support of the Government of Japan, and to be launched at the second City Summit in Hyderabad, India, at the margins of COP 11.

The use of the SI is supported by section D, paragraph k of the Indicative list of Activities of the Plan of Action, along with local biodiversity surveys and assessments or similar mechanisms, as a means for local authorities to measure the state of their biodiversity and its

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management in line with the Convention's 2011-2020 indicator framework. For more information and to access the SI User's Manual, visit: <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml> (please note that a revised version of the SI User's Manual will be available in 2012).

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration,

Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary