



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JSH/CRm/77335

23 August 2011

NOTIFICATION

Regional Workshop for Group of Latin American Countries of the CBD Programme of Invasive Alien Species and Taxonomy

Dear Madam/Sir,

In paragraph 7 of decision X/39, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary, with the assistance of the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative and in collaboration with relevant international organizations, to hold training workshops. I am pleased to inform you that the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is organizing a regional workshop for CBD national focal points and focal points the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), subject to funding availability.

Accordingly, the Executive Secretary, with the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, is organizing a regional training workshop for Parties from Latin America, with special focus on invasive alien species, to be held from 3-4 November 2011 in Montreal, Canada, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The objective of the regional training workshop of the CBD and GTI focal points is to build capacity at the national and regional levels to: (i) Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use (ii) Strengthen the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 with a focus on invasive alien species (iii) facilitate cross-sectoral communication and collaboration (iv) facilitate capacity-building for the GTI. The provisional agenda and other meeting documents will soon be available on the CBD website.

I invite you to nominate two representatives of your government to attend in their capacity as each a CBD focal point and a GTI focal point respectively, at your earliest convenience but not later than **30 September 2011**, to participate in the regional workshop. The Secretariat will be in a position to support the financial participation of one focal point of the GTI from eligible Parties.

Please note that the workshop will take place immediately prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA15), also to be held in Montreal, Canada from 7-11 November 2011.

To: CBD and GTI focal points for Latin America

Parties are requested to use the following criteria while submitting their nomination:

- The country representative should be involved in the implementation of the GTI or be a national CBD focal point from the selected region; and
- After the workshop, the representative should be in a position to translate the knowledge gained into concrete actions at national and regional levels.

In the weeks following the workshop participants will be expected to use the knowledge gained in the workshops to inform their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The capacity gained can be shared with staff and relevant stakeholders in each country. It is expected that the results of this workshop will be further discussed during the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan workshops to be held in San José, Costa Rica from 28 November - 2 December 2011.

CBD primary focal points should provide the name and contact details of their nominee via **official signed letter** addressed to the Executive Secretary by the deadline (faxed to +1 (514) 288-6588, or scanned and attached to an email addressed to secretariat@cbd.int).

I look forward to receiving your nominations and 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