



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JLe/rg/77592

26 September 2011

NOTIFICATION

**Subject: CBD Joint Expert Meeting
on Addressing Biodiversity Concerns in Sustainable Fishery
7 to 9 December 2011, Bergen, Norway**

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity noted an urgent need to further review, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the impacts of unsustainable fishing, such as destructive fishing practices, overfishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats, building upon the initial efforts made in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (paragraph 53 of decision X/29).

COP 10 then requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with FAO, UNEP, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), IUCN-CEM-FEG, and other relevant organizations, processes, and scientific groups, on the *ad hoc* organization of a joint expert meeting to review the extent to which biodiversity concerns, including the impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of pelagic fisheries of lower trophic levels, are addressed in existing assessments and propose options to address biodiversity concerns and report on the progress of such collaboration at the 16th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

Pursuant to this request, I have the pleasure to inform you that, with financial support from the Governments of Norway and Japan, and in collaboration with FAO, UNEP and IUCN-CEM-FEG, the CBD Secretariat is convening a joint expert meeting on addressing biodiversity concerns in sustainable fishery to be held from 7 to 9 December 2011. This meeting will be kindly hosted by the Government of Norway in Bergen, Norway.

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To: CBD National Focal Points; SBSTTA Focal Points; other Governments; FAO, UNEP, RFMOs; IUCN-CEM-FEG; relevant organizations

I therefore invite you to nominate, at your earliest convenience but no later than **20 October 2011**, an expert who can participate in this meeting and provide scientific information in support of the meeting objectives. The selection of experts will be based on scientific expertise and experience, in particular using the following criteria:

- Good scientific knowledge related to, and research experience in assessing the impacts of unsustainable fishing, such as destructive fishing practices, overfishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats;
- Good scientific knowledge related to, and experience in assessing the impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of pelagic fisheries of lower trophic levels; and
- Good knowledge related to, and experience in FAO's work on sustainable fishery management and CBD's work on marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

Nominations should be submitted to the CBD Secretariat via an official signed letter addressed to the Executive Secretary by the above deadline (faxed to +1 514 288-6588 or as a scanned attachment to an email addressed to secretariat@cbd.int) together with a **curriculum vitae** that clearly indicates the designated representative's areas of scientific expertise and experience.

A draft provisional agenda of the meeting is annexed to this notification for your reference. Meeting documents will be forwarded to the selected experts and posted on the CBD website in due course. The meeting will be conducted in English.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support of the work of the Convention.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachment

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the workshop co-chairs, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review the extent to which biodiversity concerns are addressed in existing assessments
4. Review the impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of pelagic fisheries of lower trophic levels
5. Propose options to address biodiversity concerns in sustainable fishery management and related assessments
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of the report
8. Closure of the meeting