



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/DC/RH/VA/81439

22 February 2013

NOTIFICATION

New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision IX/29, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) established the procedure for the identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including the information that should be provided to justify a proposal (paragraph 11) and criteria to facilitate a decision on their inclusion in the agenda of a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (paragraph 12). Specifically, through paragraph 8 of decision IX/29, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to notify Parties and relevant organizations, after each meeting of the COP, of the latest date by which proposals submitted for new and emerging issues will still be included into the compilation for consideration by the SBSTTA.

In decision XI/11 the COP noted, based on the precautionary approach, the need to consider the potential positive and negative impacts of components, organisms and products resulting from synthetic biology techniques on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and requested the Executive Secretary to invite Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders to submit, in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision IX/29, additional relevant information on components, organisms and products resulting from synthetic biology techniques that may have impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and associated social, economic and cultural considerations.

In line with these decisions, Parties, other Governments, International Organizations, stakeholders and indigenous and local communities are invited:

- (a) to submit proposals for new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In doing so, proponents should include information in accordance with paragraph 11 of decision IX/29 taking into account the criteria listed in paragraph 12 (annexed for your reference); and

To : CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, Relevant Organizations and Indigenous and Local Communities



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(b) to submit additional relevant information on components, organisms and products resulting from synthetic biology techniques.

Parties are requested to send their submission to secretariat@cbd.int at the earliest convenience but **no later than 30 June 2013**.

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

Yours sincerely,

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Annex

Information that, where possible, should accompany proposals for new and emerging issues (Decision IX/29, paragraph 11):

- (a) Why the issue needs urgent attention by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (including how it impacts biodiversity);
- (b) How it affects the attainment of the objectives of the Convention (citing relevant articles);
- (c) Thematic programmes of work and/or cross-cutting issues that could contribute to the resolution of the issue;
- (d) Work already under way by relevant organizations addressing the issue; and
- (e) Credible sources of information, preferably from peer-reviewed articles;

Criteria for identifying new and emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Decision IX/29, paragraph 12):

- (a) Relevance of the issue to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its existing programmes of work;
- (b) New evidence of unexpected and significant impacts on biodiversity;
- (c) Urgency of addressing the issue/imminence of the risk caused by the issue to the effective implementation of the Convention as well as the magnitude of actual and potential impact on biodiversity;
- (d) Actual geographic coverage and potential spread, including rate of spread, of the identified issue relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (e) Evidence of the absence or limited availability of tools to limit or mitigate the negative impacts of the identified issue on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (f) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on human well-being;
- (g) Magnitude of actual and potential impact of the identified issue on productive sectors and economic well-being as related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.