



Ref.: SCBD/MPO/AF/DA/fd/82799

21 October 2013

NOTIFICATION

Theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2014

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is pleased to announce that the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on 22 May 2014 will be:

“Island Biodiversity”

The selected theme carries special significance, coinciding with the designation by the United Nations General Assembly of 2014 as the *“International Year of Small Island Developing States”*. In addition, the theme was chosen to correspond with decision XI/15, paragraph 1 in which the Conference of the Parties to the CBD *“urges Parties, and invites other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity”*.

Islands and their surrounding near-shore marine areas constitute unique ecosystems often comprising many plant and animal species that are endemic – found nowhere else on Earth. The legacy of a unique evolutionary history, these ecosystems are irreplaceable treasures. They are also key to the livelihood, economy, well-being and cultural identity of 600 million islanders – one-tenth of the world’s population.

With this in mind, the theme provides a unique opportunity to strengthen existing initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, and new initiatives including the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenges, the proposed Maldives UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the development of the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity on European Islands under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

It is also important to note that the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will take place from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, providing an ideal forum to highlight the important work being carried out in the context of the programme of work on island biodiversity by Parties and stakeholders.

The International Day for Biological Diversity provides an opportunity to communicate and involve the public to build awareness on the value of biodiversity for human well-being around the world, as well as to communicate efforts made in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and

To: CBD National Focal Points and relevant organizations



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. It also offers an opportunity to highlight other related issues of relevance not only for Island States but for Parties to the Convention that have island ecosystems as part of their national biodiversity heritage, including climate change, marine and coastal biodiversity, invasive alien species, species threatened with extinction, tourism and biodiversity including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine protected areas, as well as cross-cutting issues such as traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use of biodiversity, community conservation areas (CCAs) and others.

The Secretariat will develop a variety of outreach materials to help celebrate this important day including, *inter alia*, the following:

- Key messages for the day
- Web page featuring events and information materials, and links to partner activities
- Poster
- Series of “postcards”
- Information booklet on the theme of “*Island Biodiversity*”

Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, are invited to share digital photos (amateur or professional) relevant to the theme of “Island Biodiversity” for possible use for IDB 2014 outreach materials. The CBD will need to be granted the rights to use these photos for non-commercial purposes. The photos could be used for future CBD publications outside of the IDB framework.

Please send high-quality digital photographs in JPEG, TIFF or PSD format to secretariat@cbd.int. Photos of 300 dpi with a physical dimension of at least 10 by 15 centimetres (4 by 6 inches) will be suitable. When sending, please include information about the content of the photo, and the name of the person to be credited. If the file size of the photo(s) exceeds 3 megabytes, kindly inform the Secretariat and an alternate means to send the photos will be provided.

We look forward to your contribution to this important event.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary