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6 July 2015

NOTIFICATION

Building Capacity for the Subnational Implementation of NBSAPs

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) would like to consult national governments to facilitate better implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) by subnational governments, including cities and other local governments.

Many of the actions prescribed in NBSAPs require implementation at the subnational level. Subnational governments are perhaps the most important subnational implementers of NBSAPs, but are often unaware of their implementation obligations or options. At the same time, national governments may not be aware of subnational governments' capabilities in terms of implementing NBSAPs, or of how NBSAPs match local biodiversity priorities.

In view of facilitating better implementation of NBSAPs, the Secretariat would thus like to consult about 30 national governments, especially from developing countries, regarding their needs for implementation of NBSAPs by subnational governments. The Secretariat's subnational implementation partner, ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability, will conduct these consultations, by telephone or in writing. Each participating national government will also be asked to nominate a subnational government to contribute views in a parallel discussion. These consultations will inform the compilation of guidelines on implementing NBSAPs at the subnational level, intended to assist Parties and subnational governments in advancing the implementation of their NBSAPs.

This initiative responds to recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention. In decision XII/2 C on the review of progress in providing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation, the COP invited Parties "to work with subnational authorities and their network of partners to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans..." (paragraph 1(e)). Also, in decision XII/9 on engagement with subnational and local governments, the Executive Secretary was requested "to assist Parties and subnational and local governments,.. to more effectively integrate the contribution of subnational and local governments to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020" (paragraph 6). These decisions complement decision X/22, in which the COP invited Parties "to involve subnational governments, cities and other local authorities when revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans" (paragraph 2).

To: CBD National Focal Points



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Biological Diversity

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Submission of expressions of interest from Governments

I am pleased to invite your Government to take part in these consultations. Should you wish to contribute, please send an e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int, with the subject line “Building Capacity for the Subnational Implementation of NBSAPs”. In the message, please provide the full contact information of a resource person with a thorough knowledge of the relevant NBSAPs.

I look forward to receiving your contributions to these consultations and I thank you for your cooperation and continued support for the work of the Convention.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary