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27 October 2015

NOTIFICATION

Call for expression of interest to participate in the pilot project on “Capacity-building to promote integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level”

Dear Madam/Sir,

In its decision BS-V/16, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (COP-MOP) adopted a Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) for the period 2011-2020 (Strategic Plan) and urged Parties to, *inter alia*, review and align with the Strategic Plan, as appropriate, their national action plans and programmes relevant to the implementation of the Protocol, including their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). In decision BS-VII/5, paragraph 10, the COP-MOP further urged Parties and invited other Governments to integrate and prioritize biosafety within their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans and programmes, as appropriate.

Furthermore, in decision BS-VII/9, the COP-MOP, recognizing that the work under the Protocol had increasingly become separated from the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) resulting in biosafety receiving less attention in implementation and funding and that limitations exist in terms of achieving a meaningful integration of the work of the Cartagena Protocol into the work of the Convention, decided to hold its future ordinary meetings concurrently with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention in the same two-week period. In the same decision, the COP-MOP also took note of recommendation 5/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, regarding integrated approaches to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols with a view to improving efficiencies.

At its twelfth meeting, the COP also recognized the need for integrated implementation of the CBD and its Protocols to improve efficiency and effectiveness and adopted a number of decisions in this regard. Among others, the COP encouraged Parties to integrate biosafety and access and benefit-sharing into NBSAPs, national development plans and other relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes and to strengthen national coordination mechanisms to facilitate a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols (decision XII/29, paragraphs 9 and 11).

The Pilot Project

Against this background, and with the generous support of the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat has developed the abovementioned project. The project aims at strengthening capacity in pilot countries to develop and test practical actions to promote integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Convention. Within the pilot countries, the project *inter*

To: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety National Focal Points



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alia seeks to facilitate the integration of biosafety into NBSAPs and other sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes and strengthen national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms. To this end, pilot countries will be requested to analyze existing national policies, strategies and activities relevant to biosafety, identify practical steps taken to integrate biosafety into NBSAPs and promote integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Convention at the national level, document experiences and lessons learned and organize cross-sectoral meetings as well as awareness raising activities.

Drawing on the results of the activities in the pilot countries, the Secretariat, in cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations, will assess the national capacity needs and skill gaps, develop training and guidance materials on mainstreaming biosafety into NBSAPs and national development plans and organize a training workshop for CBD and CPB national focal points to learn and share experiences and lessons learned in the integration of biosafety into NBSAPs and integrated implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

The overall duration of the project is approximately 15 months.

Selection criteria

Ten pilot countries will be selected for support based on the following criteria, taking also into consideration geographical balance:

- a. Developing country Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or Party with economy in transition;
- b. Progress made with the NBSAP revision and implementation process and the extent to which biosafety has been or is being integrated into the revised NBSAPs;
- c. Practical experience with, and/or demonstrated commitment towards, the integration of biosafety considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes, including NBSAPs and national development plans. The final selection will include a mixture of countries at different levels, including those with long practical experience and those that may have just embarked on the process of integration but have demonstrated a strong commitment; and
- d. Ability to identify in the proposal qualified national consultants and/or resource persons who are available to conduct the national activities outlined below within the project timeframe.

Final selection of the ten pilot countries will be at the discretion of the Japan Biodiversity Fund in collaboration with the Secretariat.

What is expected from supported countries?

Each of the ten selected pilot countries will be expected to carry out following activities:

1. Conduct a desk study to analyze how and the extent to which biosafety is integrated into existing national policies, strategies and activities across various Ministries and sectors and identify the challenges, capacity needs, opportunities, good practices and lessons learned;
2. Organize a national roundtable to review the results of the study and to identify and discuss appropriate actions and modalities for promoting integrated implementation of the CBD and the Protocol, including through:
 - a. Improving the integration of biosafety into NBSAPs and other relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, policies and programmes, resource mobilization plans and national budgets;

- b. Establishing or strengthening national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms to facilitate a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol; and
 - c. Prioritizing biosafety among projects/activities to be supported under the national GEF-6 allocation for biodiversity.
3. Organize a seminar to increase awareness of key policy and decision makers and media about the importance of biosafety with a view to securing the necessary political support for biosafety; and
 4. Document the above processes and their outcomes as well as the experience gained and submit a report to the Secretariat.

Each of the ten selected pilot countries will receive up to USD 30,000 to carry out the above activities.

Activities at national level will have to be concluded by May 2016 to allow sufficient time to organize a global workshop for all participating countries and prepare a report before COP-MOP 8.

Call for expression of interest to participate

Parties interested in receiving support to participate in the pilot project are invited to prepare and submit to the Secretariat an expression of interest (2-3 pages), demonstrating their fulfilment of the selection criteria, and their suitability to carry out the activities. Expressions of interest should be submitted to secretariat@cbd.int by **23 November 2015**.

Participation on a self-funded basis

The project may also be open to a limited number of Parties that are not eligible to receive funding from the Japan Biodiversity Fund. Those Parties interested to take part in the pilot project on a self-funded basis are invited to contact the Secretariat for further details regarding modalities for their involvement.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary