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8 February 2017

NOTIFICATION

Completion of financial reporting frameworks by 1 July 2017; associated technical support by the CBD-BIOFIN Regional Nodes; survey on protected area funding

Madam/Sir,

I am writing to draw your attention to decision XIII/20 on resource mobilization, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting, held from 4 to 17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico, as well as to a new initiative to assess spending on protected areas, which require your attention, as set forth below.

First, in decision XIII/20, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties that have not yet done so to provide the necessary baseline information and report progress against the targets for resource mobilization adopted in decision XII/3, paragraph 1, using the financial reporting framework, **by 1 July 2017**. The COP also invited Parties to update, as appropriate, their financial reporting frameworks as confirmed/final data for 2015 becomes available, with a view to improving the robustness of the data (paragraph 6 of decision XIII/20). A total of 68 Parties have so far submitted their financial reporting frameworks.

In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the COP also urged Parties to identify their funding needs, gaps, and priorities, on the basis, as appropriate, of the revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and other complementary information, and to develop and implement their national finance plans for the effective implementation of the revised NBSAPs, as a matter of priority, and to report thereon **by 1 July 2017** where feasible, using the financial reporting framework.

The financial reporting framework is available under the following link: <https://chm.cbd.int/submit/resourceMobilisation>. Please refer to the Annex for additional technical information. Kindly complete or update the financial reporting framework at your earliest convenience but no later than **1 July 2017**.

Second, I wish to recall that the CBD-BIOFIN Regional Nodes, established by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-BIOFIN) in close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, stand ready to provide technical support to countries not involved in the core BIOFIN Programme, for implementing the financial planning steps above and undertake data analysis that can help generate inputs for the associated reporting (please refer to notification 2016-143 of 23 November 2016). Countries are encouraged to submit their informal expressions of interest for support at their earliest convenience to biofin@undp.org, with a copy to secretariat@cbd.int.

To : CBD National Focal Points and Resource Mobilisation Focal Points

More specifically, I am pleased to inform you that UNDP-BIOFIN will roll out a series of webinars in the coming months, which will cover the individual steps in the BIOFIN methodology towards the development of a national finance plan. The webinars will target National Resource Mobilization Focal Points and their collaborators, or other national officials tasked in implementing the targets for resources mobilization adopted by decision XII/3, paragraph 1, and associated reporting. You will receive specific invitations to the individual webinars in the coming weeks, once their schedule has been confirmed for a certain region or sub-region.

Third and finally, I wish to draw your attention to a recent partnership initiative of the International Institute for Sustainability, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and the University of Cambridge, to repeat the first global assessment of spending on protected areas, undertaken in 1993. This first survey has been used extensively since then and the goal of this timely update is to provide fresh evidence to support research, policies and practice related to protected area finance. Broad participation in this exercise is critical for its success, and I therefore invite you to complete the questionnaire available under www.iis-rio.org/ipa (available in English, French and Spanish, as well as in Portuguese) at your earliest convenience but please no later than **6 April 2017**.

I thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the Convention.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

Annex

Financial Reporting Framework: technical information

The Financial Reporting Framework is available under: <https://chm.cbd.int/submit/resourceMobilisation> .

By default, National Focal Points and, in case they were already nominated, Resource Mobilization Focal Points are granted access to, and publishing rights for, the Financial Reporting Framework. If you wish to change this arrangement, for instance by providing access to additional persons, the National Focal Point is kindly invited to send an e-mail to financialreporting@cbd.int .

Please sign up with your recognized e-mail address. If you do not yet have a user account, you will receive an invitation by email to activate your account. The process is self-explanatory.

When you access for the first time, you will have to click on the button “Add New” to open the framework and start entering data.

If you encounter difficulties in accessing the system, or for further technical questions, please contact financialreporting@cbd.int. Once you entered the financial reporting framework, there will also be a dedicated help button for your perusal.

The completed framework can be saved as draft (invisible to the public), or saved and published (visible to the public). In order to allow the entry of provisional data and later updating, even published frameworks remain accessible for amendments.

The Financial Reporting Framework is made available under the new system for the clearing-house mechanism. Please bear in mind that the work on this new system is ongoing and that its overall layout is therefore provisional.