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7 March 2017

**NOTIFICATION**  
**Launch of the Bio-Bridge Initiative Web Platform**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that the Secretariat has launched a new web platform under the Bio-Bridge Initiative which will allow Parties and relevant organizations to submit requests for technical assistance or make offers of such assistance online. The platform, which is an integral component of the clearing-house mechanism, is accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/biobridge/platform>.

The Bio-Bridge Initiative was established to catalyse and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation by, *inter alia*, linking Parties that have technical and scientific needs with Parties or institutions that are in a position to provide assistance to meet those needs. Since the establishment of the Initiative, the Secretariat has developed the Bio-Bridge Action Plan for 2017-2020, supported four pilot projects to test technical and scientific cooperation approaches and is currently reviewing new proposals, initiated partnerships with various organizations and established various tools and mechanisms, including a help desk and the web platform referred to above.

In accordance with decisions XII/2B and XIII/23, the platform has been designed to:

- (a) Facilitate the communication of technical and scientific needs and priorities of Parties;
- (b) Facilitate the linking of the needs of Parties with available support;
- (c) Enhance the availability of and accessibility to a wide range of knowledge assets and curated resources, including scientific reports, technical guidelines, case studies and examples of best practices;
- (d) Support online technical discussions and knowledge exchanges; and
- (e) Facilitate the exchange of information on existing opportunities and successful initiatives.

In this regard, I invite Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities that have technical and scientific needs to use the web platform to submit their requests for assistance. I would also like to invite Parties and organizations in a position to do so, to use the platform to communicate their interest to provide technical assistance or make offers of support in response to specific requests for assistance made by Parties and share information on existing relevant resources, including good practices, expertise and opportunities.

The helpdesk will use the information provided through the web platform to support Parties in articulating their needs and priorities, facilitate matchmaking between the requests for assistance submitted and the available offers or opportunities that could best address the technical and scientific needs, and link the requesting Parties with the potential providers of technical assistance. For more information please visit the Bio-Bridge website at <http://www.cbd.int/biobridge> or send an e-mail to [biobridge@cbd.int](mailto:biobridge@cbd.int).

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

David Cooper  
Deputy Executive Secretary  
Officer-in-Charge

To: CBD, ABS, CPB, SBSTTA and CHM National Focal Points, IPLCs and relevant organizations

