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5 September 2017

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to consultation process for the “Caring for Coasts” Initiative

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to invite Parties to participate in a consultation on the “Caring for Coasts” Initiative.

The “Caring for Coasts” Initiative, which was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XII/19, aims to leverage practical and policy support to Parties and other stakeholders to enhance coastal wetland conservation through supporting restoration actions, as a contribution towards the delivery of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, especially Targets 14 and 15. The Initiative is led by the Secretariat in partnership with BirdLife International, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and Wetlands International, with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Environment Canada. Further information is available at: <https://www.feri-biodiversity.org/caring-for-coasts>.

As part of the Initiative’s roadmap, the Secretariat is undertaking a consultation process on coastal wetland restoration, which will take place from 8 September to 31 October 2017.

I, therefore, invite Parties to nominate an official representative to participate in this consultation, who may be the National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or an official from the most appropriate ministry or institution, nominated by the CBD National Focal Point. The representative will serve as a point of contact with the Secretariat throughout the consultation period.

The deadline for the receipt of nominations is **30 September 2017**. Further details, including the nomination procedure, are provided at the aforementioned link.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD National Focal Points

ANNEX I. Background of the “Caring for Coasts” consultation

The “Caring for Coasts” initiative

“Caring for Coasts” is proposed as a global initiative focussed on coastal wetland conservation and restoration, in response to calls to restore coastal wetlands. Preparatory work in developing “Caring for Coasts” is presently led by the CBD Secretariat, BirdLife International, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, and Wetlands International, with support from Government of Canada through Environment Canada. “Caring for Coasts” aims to provide a common platform to bring together governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and civil society to deliver:

a. *Increased awareness and prioritisation of coastal wetlands in global conservation*

- To raise the profile of coastal wetland restoration globally, and to build wider awareness of the value of coastal wetlands through relevant online tools, publications, symposia and workshops.

b. *Coordination in coastal wetland restoration efforts*

- To function as a platform for coordinating coastal wetland restoration work by facilitating collaborative work between different stakeholders, through activities such as online fora, workshops and seminars.

c. *Setting commitments and priorities towards coastal wetland restoration efforts and policies*

- To directly support the strengthening of policy and funding commitments, including from the private sector, towards implementation of coastal wetland restoration, for example through seeking to dispense grants for coastal wetland restoration activities.
- To support national-level conservation frameworks and processes for coastal wetland restoration prioritisation.

d. *Knowledge and capacity building*

- To collate and pool information on coastal wetland restoration principles, policies, and best practices, through relevant publications, training workshops, the development and promotion of demonstration projects and online tools.

e. *Engagement and network building*

- To build a broad constituency of stakeholders and partners to enhance delivery of coastal wetland restoration commitments.

During the preparatory phase in 2017-18, a consultation of CBD Parties and a ‘call to action’ is planned to enlist active support from a wide range of stakeholders across the world. It is envisaged that developments on “Caring for Coasts” will be formally presented in 2018 at the Ramsar Convention COP13 in October in the United Arab Emirates and/or the CBD COP14 in November in Egypt, as envisaged by the Philippines in their proposed resolution to the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species 22-28 October 2017, Manila COP12/Doc.24.4.10 Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species

“Caring for Coasts” is expected to have shared ownership by interested governments (acting as Contracting Parties of relevant Conventions or otherwise) and other institutional partners, including the private sector, donors and existing restoration initiatives. All such governments and partners should



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identify a responsible focal point or representative(s) who will take responsibility for engagement with the Initiative, championing it wherever possible, and overseeing/driving the implementation of elements that are relevant to them.

Currently, development of the *Caring for Coasts* initiative is being managed by an interim coordinator (Ding Li Yong, Email: dingli.yong@birdlife.org), and guided by an Interim Steering Committee represented by the CBD Secretariat, BirdLife International, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and Wetlands International.



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