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18 September 2018

NOTIFICATION
The Nature and Culture Summit
22-24 November 2018 – Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that the “Nature and Culture Summit”, under the theme “*Biological and Cultural Diversity for Biodiversity and Human Resilience - Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement*”, will be held from 22 to 24 November 2018, as part of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

The Summit is jointly organized by the Government of Egypt, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Cairo Office, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network, the United Nations Development Programme’s Equator Initiative, the GEF Small Grants Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other partners.

The aim of the Nature and Culture Summit is to present best practices and lessons learnt and to share experiences from indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), Parties and international organizations, with an emphasis on gender and youth, on the links between biological and cultural diversity and the importance of these links for biodiversity and human resilience, and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. The Summit will focus on the pivotal role of IPLCs and Biocultural Diversity to the success of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNESCO’s culture-related Conventions, and broader global processes.

The Summit is expected to contribute to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties through a statement to be presented at the Plenary. It will also contribute to the development of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

The Nature and Culture Summit will offer a great opportunity for participants from around the world to appreciate cultural diversity reflected across many indigenous peoples and local communities and their contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Participants will also be able to learn more about the importance of respecting, preserving, maintaining, promoting and using traditional knowledge to address some of the global problems facing humankind.

To: CBD, ABS, TK Focal Points, and indigenous people and local community organizations

The three-day summit will include panel and round-table discussions on mainstreaming traditional knowledge. A field visit to a protected area will take place on 22 November, and will include traditional food and a handcraft exhibit from local communities from around Egypt. The Summit will conclude with a cultural night to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network. The agenda and other relevant information will be made available on the Summit's website at: <https://www.cbd.int/tk/nature.shtml>.

I am pleased to invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous people and local community organizations as well as non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations interested in attending this important Summit to complete the registration form in English (<https://goo.gl/HgcLSy>), Spanish (<https://goo.gl/Q5pYGh>), or French (<https://goo.gl/gCucTR>) as soon as possible but no later than 29 September 2018. Confirmations are required for the full three-day event given the limited capacity of the venue. Kindly note that the event is open to UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 14, COP/MOP9 and COP/MOP3) registered participants only. Confirmed participants will be contacted directly by the Secretariat.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary