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2 September 2020

NOTIFICATION
Appointment of the new Head of the Biosafety Unit

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Wadzanayi Goredema-Mandivenyi has been appointed as the Head of the Biosafety Unit of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Some of you may have already had the opportunity to work with her, as she served as an Expert on the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and participated in the negotiations to adopt the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol. I am happy to welcome her to the Biosafety Unit.

Ms. Wadzanayi Goredema-Mandivenyi has worked in the biotechnology, biosafety and biodiversity sector for the past 24 years. In 2005, she joined the Government of South Africa as a Biosafety Regulator, where she oversaw the development of environmental risk assessment and biosafety policy at the national and regional levels. In addition, in 2012 she was appointed as the Senior Manager responsible for promoting international cooperation for biodiversity as well as monitoring and reporting, and bridging the science and policy interface. Prior to joining the Government of South Africa, Ms. Goredema-Mandivenyi worked in the development sector for stakeholder organizations on biotechnology in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Ms. Goredema-Mandivenyi has a Master of Science degree in Molecular Genetics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and an Honors degree in biological sciences from the University of Zimbabwe.

I would like to sincerely thank Ms. Kathryn Garforth for taking up the challenge of leading the Biosafety functions in the interim, as well as many other colleagues who supported the Biosafety team so it could fulfill its mandate.

For any information, please contact Ms. Goredema-Mandivenyi at Wadzanayi.Mandivenyi@cbd.int. I look forward to your collaboration in implementing the Cartagena Protocol.

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, BCH National Focal Points, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and relevant organizations

