

26 April 2001

Your Ref: STTM/dc/ia

**Dear Mr. Zedan**  
**Executive Secretary**  
**Convention on Biological Diversity**

Regarding your notification dated 22 January 2001 on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the following three strategies are recommended:

***1- Promotion of public participation:***

In the National level Public awareness leads the community to increase its appreciation of biodiversity assets and in the medium to long term, to support the allocation of resources for biodiversity conservation. Obviously, improving public knowledge has a direct relation to the quality and quantity of information about biodiversity. This information is the result of research and most critically should be presented to the public. There needs to be an increase in expertise in addressing strategic questions and better analysis of the information by holding several workshops, leading to management orientated outcomes. Equally, there is a need for the development of databases to make the information accessible to a broader audience (including all land and water managers) and results of studies should be “translated” and presented for public use. Also allocate appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy (public awareness) formulation, planning, implementation and evaluation. In the International level, the developing countries should cooperate with other states and international organizations in developing educational and public awareness programs.

***2- Ecologically sustainable use of Biodiversity:***

In the national level evaluating ecosystems and identify fragile ecosystems should be required for more attention and care. Meanwhile scientific evidence and traditional knowledge have demonstrated the value of genetic resources of wild and domesticated species as sources of biological diversity, and thus, techniques and specific advanced methods have been developed for protection of species and rehabilitation of ecosystems

worldwide. Collecting and preserving of seeds, planting and maintenance of rare plant species, developing advanced techniques of seeding, testing adaptation capacities of seeds, hybridization of plant and animal species and microbial genetic engineering are only a few of the recognized practical experiments towards ex-situ conservation. These activities should be directed towards establishment of natural history museums, seed and gene banks, botanical gardens, wildlife breeding centers and animal safe habitats, herbaria and microbial collection centers. These centers will establish in conjunction with in-situ practices to support existing populations, regardless of their size. Ongoing research provides the basic knowledge required on endangered, depleted and sensitive species.

In the International level the contracting parties shall promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through the appropriate international and national institutions. Also preparing several workshops should be very useful.

***3- Formation of Biodiversity information, monitoring and reporting systems:***

These systems would be used as environmental management tools and will be accessible to all sectors. In this case workshops, meetings and short training courses will be highly recommended. CBD/CHM could play the major role in these regards.

Regards,  
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