

Call for contributions to *[square brackets]*

Submissions due 6 September 2013

[square brackets] is a newsletter produced jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) (www.cbd.int) and the CBD Alliance (www.cbdalliance.org).

The newsletter aims to facilitate timely dialogue among civil society stakeholders on cutting edge biodiversity issues, from both policy (advocacy and decision-making) and practical (implementation) perspectives. The 7th edition was published in October 2012: www.cbd.int/ngo/square-brackets/square-brackets-2012-10-en.pdf

We invite short articles from members of civil society all over the world (including NGOs, social movements, indigenous organizations and representatives, local communities).

The new edition of *[square brackets]* will be published to coincide with the Eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, being held 7-11 October 2013 in Montreal, Canada; and the Seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, being held 14-18 October 2013 in Montreal, Canada.

Specifically, we are interested in receiving articles related to issues to be addressed by SBSTTA 17 and the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j), including:

Article 8j:

- Article 10(c) as a new major component of work of the revised programme for Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD – customary sustainable use of biodiversity
- Best practice guidelines that would facilitate enhancement of the repatriation of indigenous and traditional knowledge (Task 15) – repatriation of information and traditional knowledge for cultural restoration
- How Task 7, 10 and 12 could best contribute to work under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization
- Recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – the use of the term “indigenous peoples”
- In-depth dialogue on thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues – connecting traditional knowledge systems and science, such as under the IPBES, including gender dimensions
- Sharing of benefits of resource due to innovation, practice and knowledge of indigenous and local community, for resource that appears to be cross-border resource to several countries.

SBSTTA 17:

- Policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and gaps
- The adequacy of observations, and of data systems, to help Parties achieve and monitor the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Scientific and technical assessments of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention.

Articles will be selected and edited by an editorial board comprising representatives of indigenous and non-governmental groups and staff from the SCBD.

Potential contributors are advised to review guidelines for articles appended below.

Please send submissions electronically to: johan.hedlund@cbd.int and nele.marien@gmail.com

Guidelines for Articles

Length: Approximately 800 words

Topics: We seek submissions on the CBD issues of concern to the civil society, both at the national and global levels, particularly in relation to the forthcoming eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Photos: Photos that are of publishable quality are most welcome. Please note that photos should be sent as image files and not placed in Word documents. They can be sent as jpeg, tiff, or psd. Photos should be sent in the largest size available; please do not reduce the size of images before sending.

Tone: Articles must be written in a constructive and analytical manner and contribute to a deeper understanding of the issue. Contributions must not identify or target particular Parties on issues under negotiation. Opinions are more than welcome, but total coverage of topics in the newsletter will aim to present diverse and balanced viewpoints and arguments that enable the readers to formulate their own informed opinions.

Style: Please note that the newsletter follows a similar style to popular publications. If possible, please keep sentences and paragraphs short; and use simple language, bearing in mind that for a large number of readers English is not their first language.

Links:

Non-Governmental Organizations / *[square brackets]*: www.cbd.int/ngo/
 Convention on Biological Diversity: www.cbd.int/
 CBD Alliance: www.cbdalliance.org/
