



Republic of Botswana

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All Correspondence to be addressed to the Director

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Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint Jacques Street
Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
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Dear Sir,

Re: SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICA

The Government of Botswana is pleased to inform you that in May 2012, we convened and hosted the "Summit on Sustainability in Africa", attended by several heads of states, representatives of private companies, multilateral financial and development institutions, NGO's and others.

The Summit concluded with a Declaration, known as the Gaborone Declaration on Sustainability for Africa (GDSA), which has been signed by 10 African countries and 19 non-state institutions, and a set of Action Items as well as a commitment by the signatory countries to report their implementation efforts annually. A copy of the Gaborone Declaration is attached for your perusal.

In line with the foregoing, Botswana has taken the leadership role for facilitating the advancement of the sustainability debate in Africa, and

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has the responsibility to ensure that the declaration is taken to implementation on a sustained basis.

In this regard, the Government of Botswana will host a follow up meeting of the Gaborone Declaration, which will ensure that an implementation framework is jointly agreed by the signatories of the Declaration, and also provide an opportunity for other countries and actors to come on board. The follow-up meeting and the eventual implementation framework provide an important vehicle to drive the issues of sustainability in Africa.

The Government of Botswana recognises that Africa plays an important role in the implementation of CBD Programmes of Work. It is also important to state that the Gaborone Declaration on Sustainability for Africa is an important tool towards the achievement of the CBD 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan more specifically the Aichi targets as they form a key component of the GDSA. The GDSA will help towards the achievement of Aichi Targets 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 7; 9; 12; 14; 15; 17; and 19. The achievement of the Aichi targets in Africa will also be beneficial towards the global developmental agenda.

Botswana therefore pledges its implementation of the outcomes of the GDSA meeting towards the Secretariat's Aichi Biodiversity Champions campaign and as solutions for Africa's developmental challenges. We further request for your support, technical and financial, towards the preparation for the upcoming follow up workshop and the implementation of the framework.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Portia K. Segomelo/Director

Cc, Permanent Secretary, Environment, Wildlife and Tourism