



# Convention on Biological Diversity

## Secretariat

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/MV

18 January 2002

Sir/Madam,

At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity endorsed the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, as contained in annex I of Decision V/23. To assist with the implementation of the programme of work, COP requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to establish an ad hoc technical group on this topic. The tasks to be undertaken by this group are attached.

You are hereby invited to submit the name of an expert from your country who may be called upon to serve in the ad hoc technical expert group, together with a description of his/her expertise to carry out the tasks mandated to this group. The nomination of experts should be sent to the Secretariat, by fax or electronic mail no later than 31 January 2002.

Once nominees are received, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, will select up to fifteen experts with due consideration given to geographical balance as well as to ensuring that the range of expertise on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity is covered. The exact date and venue for the first meeting of the group is yet to be determined. However, it is envisaged that the first meeting will be held around the middle of March this year.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support towards the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

*To All CBD National Focal Points*



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**Tasks to be undertaken by the ad hoc technical expert group on dry and sub-humid lands (decision V/23, paragraph 7):**

- (a) Consolidate and assess information on the status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, on the possible establishment of an international network of dry and sub-humid areas of particular value for biodiversity, on indicators, on processes affecting biodiversity, on global benefits derived from biodiversity, and on the socio-economic impacts of its loss, including the interrelationship between biodiversity and poverty;
- (b) Assess the progress and the effects of the specific measures that have been taken for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, for resource management and for the support of sustainable livelihoods;
- (c) Assess international priorities set up at the regional and global levels and make proposals for expected outcomes, further activities, possible actors that may implement them, and timetables for action;