



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/PD/ 42277

22 March 2004

NOTIFICATION

Re: Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

I wish to draw your attention to decision VII/31, paragraph 8, of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP), which “requests the Executive Secretary to develop a preparatory process for the work of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on island biodiversity which includes, *inter alia*, electronic forums, an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) in mid-2004, and a liaison group held immediately after the Mauritius meeting in August/September 2004”.

I have the pleasure to inform you that, with financial support from Spain, I plan to convene the meeting of the AHTEG on Island Biodiversity in July 2004. The main purpose of the meeting is the development of proposals for the programme of work on island biodiversity, to be subsequently submitted to the tenth meeting of the SBSTTA for its consideration. The terms of reference of the AHTEG on Island Biodiversity are contained in annex I and the provisional agenda for the meeting in annex II to this notification. Other meeting documents will be forwarded to the members of the AHTEG and posted on the CBD website in due course. The meeting will be conducted in English.

I invite you to nominate, at your earliest convenience but no later than **30 April 2004**, an expert who can participate in the meeting of the AHTEG on Island Biodiversity. The selection of experts will be based on expertise, taking into account gender balance and geographical distribution, and will be carried out using the following criteria:

- Good knowledge of issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of island ecosystems, species and genetic resources, including environmental and socio-economic factors affecting the status of island biodiversity; and good knowledge of issues related to the sharing of benefits from island genetic resources;
- Good knowledge of the CBD programmes of work;
- Good knowledge of the issues and processes related to small islands developing States (e.g. review of the Barbados Programme of Action);
- Good knowledge of legal, policy, institutional and economic frameworks in island settings;
- Good knowledge of issues pertaining to capacity building, technology transfer, sustainable financing, communication, education and public awareness in relation to island biodiversity.

To: CBD National Focal Points

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- Knowledge and experience in identification, monitoring and assessment of island biodiversity.

In this view, nominations should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae that clearly indicates the areas of expertise of the nominee.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support to the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

Annex I

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY

A. *Mandate*

Guided by the Strategic Plan, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals; and taking into account *inter alia* the Convention's 2010 target and related decisions, the ongoing programmes of work of the Convention on thematic and cross-cutting issues, work being carried out in the framework of the Barbados Programme of Action, and the specificities of islands as compared to main lands, the ad hoc technical expert group will:

(a) Draw on material provided by the Secretariat which reviews, *inter alia*, the outcomes of the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings for the 10 year review of the Barbados Programme of Action, and the status and trends of, and major threats to, island biological diversity, and identifies those characteristics;

(b) Review how ongoing work on the different thematic areas and cross-cutting issues under the Convention on Biological Diversity and related work being carried out in the framework of other processes, in particular the Barbados Programme of Action, are contributing to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention in island ecosystems; identify significant gaps and constraints, paying particular attention to mechanisms used to support implementation (e.g. financial mechanism, clearing-house mechanism, technology transfer, capacity-building);

(c) Develop proposals for a programme of work on island biological diversity incorporating priority actions to enhance conservation of island biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources from islands. In carrying out this work:

(i) develop global outcome- and process-oriented targets and related indicators pertaining to the priority actions;

(ii) identify relevant actors and partners for the implementation of the programme of work, synergies with other programmes and ways to draw on existing best practices;

(iii) propose ways to link with the Secretary General's WEHAB ("water, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity") initiative, and support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant objectives identified by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

B. *Duration of work*

The work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biological Diversity should be initiated immediately after approval of its terms of reference by the Conference of the Parties, and completed by August 2004. The report of the expert group will be forwarded for information to the international meeting of the small island developing States for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action, which will take place in Mauritius in August 2004.

Annex II

MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY

(Canary Islands, Spain, July 2004)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of officers;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Review of: (i) the outcomes of the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings for the 10 year review of the Barbados Programme of Action and (ii) the status and trends of, and major threats to, island biological diversity, and identification of the characteristics of island biodiversity.
4. Review of ongoing work on different thematic areas and cross-cutting issues under the Convention on Biological Diversity and related work carried out in the framework of other processes, and identification of significant gaps and constraints to implementation.
5. Development of proposals for the programme of work on island biological diversity.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.
