



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/ITS/DC/ci/65491

31 October 2008

NOTIFICATION Capacity Development Workshop for the Arab countries on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that a regional workshop for the Arab countries on capacity development on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP), mainstreaming of biodiversity, will be held in **Cairo, Egypt, from 14 to 18 December 2008**. This workshop is being organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of the League of Arab States, and the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme. Through an exchange of experiences and training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms, the purpose of the workshop is to strengthen national capacity for the development, implementation, review and updating of NBSAPs, and for biodiversity mainstreaming into relevant sectors, in line with COP decisions VIII/8 and IX/8. The workshop will also address some of the capacity building needs identified by CAMRE's Arab Team on Biodiversity and Desertification. Further relevant information is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsaps/workshops>.

I am pleased to invite you to nominate a representative of your country to participate in this workshop. Please provide the name and coordinates of your nomination through an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary which should reach the Secretariat **no later than 16 November 2008** (either faxed to +1 (514) 288-6588 or scanned and attached to an email addressed to secretariat@cbd.int). In submitting nominations, Parties are requested to note that the representative should be responsible for the development and/or implementation of their NBSAP. Nominated representatives should also be in a position to prepare and present a report on progress made in the development, implementation, review, and updating of the NBSAP and the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors. Moreover, following the workshop, the representative should be in a position to translate the capacity gained into concrete actions in support of national implementation. The workshop will be conducted in English, with interpretation into Arabic.

In addition to country representatives, a limited number of experts will be selected to participate in the workshop, acting as resource persons. Accordingly, you may also wish to recommend an expert from your country involved in integrating biodiversity into development planning.

Limited funds are available to support the participation of representatives from eligible countries. Upon receipt of nominations, further information on travel and hotel arrangements will be duly communicated.

I thank you in advance for your support, and look forward to receiving your nominations and recommendations.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points (Arab States)

cc: SBSTTA Focal Points, UNEP/ ROWA, CAMRE Technical Secretariat



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COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



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