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19 April 2012

NOTIFICATION

Activities at the Margins of SBSTTA-16

Dear Madam/Sir,

At the margins of the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-16), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is pleased to notify Parties of several activities that have been planned to further support the meeting agenda.

1. Briefing Session on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, 29 April

The CBD Secretariat will convene a briefing session for participants of SBSTTA-16 on Sunday, 29 April 2012 between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. The briefing will focus on the process of regional workshop organization, including the nomination/selection of experts; development of the workshop terms of reference/provisional agenda/the organization of the work; compilation, synthesis and mapping of scientific information for the workshop; and engaging regional/international scientific partnerships. The briefing session will take place in the ICAO Building, in room CR6. In addition to Parties and other Governments, this briefing session also welcomes representatives from relevant international/regional organizations. Further details are available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EBSA-BRIEFING>.

2. Side Events at SBSTTA-16 on 30 April 2012, Lunch Break

There are three side events during the lunch break on Monday, 30 April 2012, which are open to all delegates. They are as follows:

i. Roundtable discussion on encouraging technical and scientific cooperation: The SBSTTA Bureau will convene a roundtable to share ideas and options for facilitating technical and scientific cooperation amongst scientific institutions at national and regional levels with a view to accomplishing the tasks set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and for the implementation of National Biodiversity

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, GTI Focal Points, relevant organizations and GTI Coordination Mechanism.

Strategies and Action Plans. In particular, the event seeks to gather ideas on how these institutions can be better empowered, mobilized and utilized to assist Parties in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention. The event will be informal with the goal of encouraging as many perspectives and ideas as possible. The event will be held from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. and lunch will be provided. While participation is open to all interested delegates, SBSTTA national focal points are particularly encouraged to participate so that they can share their ideas and experiences on this topic.

ii. Ecologically and biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs): The CBD Secretariat will convene a side event, in collaboration with the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative and various partners involved in the organization of regional EBSAs workshops, (decision IX/20, annex I) to highlight key results of the regional workshops and discuss various scientific issues and capacity-building opportunities related to the application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs. The event will be held from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. and lunch will be provided.

iii. In-depth review of island biodiversity: Since its adoption in 2006, the programme of work on island biodiversity has stimulated island leadership and action to protect, manage and sustainably use the unique, diverse and threatened natural resources found on islands. The Honorable Ronald Jumeau, Roving Ambassador for Climate Change and SIDS issues, Republic of Seychelles, will chair the side event which provides the opportunity to learn about islands and the programme of work, as well as the in-depth review process, from engaging speakers including many participants of GLISPA. The event will be held from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. and lunch will be provided.

The complete list of side events can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/sbstta16/side-events/?mtg=sbstta-16>. Please check monitors at ICAO for room locations and further details.

3. Global Taxonomy Initiative – Expert Kiosk

In light of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, there will be an Expert Kiosk at SBSTTA-16 which will focus on the taxonomic information services and resources that are available for Parties to primarily support achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species, IAS) and Target 19 (science base), also in relation to a global campaign on IAS as part of the in-depth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity. Experts will be available between Monday, 30 April and Friday, 4 May from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Kiosk located in the ICAO foyer. Experts interested in providing assistance at the Expert Kiosk are welcome to contact the Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int with details of their area of expertise/availability, and they will be acknowledged in the Kiosk display materials.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary