Ref.: SCBD/SPS/DC/SBG/CS/VA/86448 13 July 2017

# N O T I F I C A T I O N

**Capacity-development workshop for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

**25 - 29 September 2017 - Pietermaritzburg, South Africa**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision XI/16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of South Africa and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is organizing a capacity-development workshop for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa on the restoration of forest and other ecosystems to support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15[[1]](#footnote-1), to be held from 25 to 29 September 2017, in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

This capacity-development event will be conducted through a mix of plenary and practical sessions led by the CBD Secretariat and experts from other agencies, including FAO. The meeting will be conducted in English with French simultaneous interpretation. Workshop documents will be posted on the CBD website at https://www.cbd.int/meetings/ and on the website dedicated to the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative https://www.feri-biodiversity.org/

This workshop is one of a series being organized as part of the implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative by the CBD Secretariat through the generous financial assistance of the Korea Forest Service of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The Initiative was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twelfth meeting through decision XII/19, paragraph 5.

The Secretariat is offering this capacity-development activity to Parties to enhance biodiversity considerations across the landscape level, through integrated and collaborative planning, implementation and reporting. The overall aim of the workshop is to support Parties in carrying out national plans on ecosystem restoration, guided by the Short Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration, with a focus on efforts taken in forest and other ecosystems to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15 and related targets.

In this connection, I am pleased to invite your Government to nominate one representative to participate in this workshop, as soon as possible but not later than **30 July 2017**. The nominated experts from the different eligible countries will receive financing from the CBD Secretariat to facilitate their participation.

Nominations should be submitted at [www.feri-biodiversity.org/saregistration](http://www.feri-biodiversity.org/saregistration). A copy of the nominee’s passport will need to be uploaded, as well as a signed scanned copy of the official endorsement page available in the Annex. Alternatively, these documents can be faxed to: +1 514 288 6588. Please note that the nominated experts should ensure that their passport is valid for a period of six months after travel.

Towards the aim identified, the workshop will enable:

1. A review of national commitments and their stages of implementation;
2. A better understanding of the motives/drivers for restoration and best practices from experts in the field, including on ways and means to leverage actions to plan, restore and monitor the benefits from ecosystem services in national plans and frameworks for implementation;
3. A review of relevant global and regional initiatives, and how these integrate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations within their activities, as well as in the tools used to support the implementation and tracking of country commitments under such initiatives;
4. South-South exchange of experiences and knowledge and the benefits to ecological, social and economic sustainability; and
5. Ways and means to mobilize domestic and international public and private resources, engaging different stakeholders and incentivizing long term actions in ecosystem restoration.

Parties are requested to use the following criteria when determining their nominations. The nominee should:

1. Have a level of responsibility for making decisions on land use/spatial planning for biodiversity/agriculture/water resources/restoration;
2. Be in a position to follow up on national commitments and actions including those adopted at recent CBD meetings, such as the thirteenth meeting of the COP, as well as in reporting to the Convention; and
3. Be in a position to translate the knowledge gained into concrete cross-sectoral actions to enhance policy and planning coherence with forest sector representatives, among others.

In order to take stock of progress and activities being carried out by countries, the Secretariat has developed a detailed questionnaire in English and French for country representatives to complete online. Upon receipt of the official nomination, the Secretariat will provide the link to access the questionnaire and this will need to be completed by **15 August 2017**, at the latest.

I look forward to receiving your nominations and I thank you for your cooperation and continued support for the work of the Convention.

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

 Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD

 Executive Secretary

Enclosure

**ANNEX**

**OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT**

Name of Head of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Endorses the application of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The institution confirmsthat on his/her return, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will retain his/her current responsibilities related to subject matter of the meeting/training and will be supported to apply and share the knowledge and skills gained from the meeting/training.

Signature and Stamp Date:

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**Name (Please Print) (Signature)**

1. See https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets [↑](#footnote-ref-1)