



Ref.: SCBD/SSSF/AS/CR/TM/88642

24 January 2020

## NOTIFICATION

### Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Biodiversity and Health for the SEARO region

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that the World Health Organization (WHO) and its South East Asia Regional Office (WHO SEARO), in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is hosting a regional capacity-building workshop on the inter-linkages between biodiversity and human health with a special focus on nutrition. The WHO regional workshop on biodiversity and health for the SEARO region will be held on 26-27 February 2020 in Maldives.

The regional workshop builds on a series of regional capacity-building workshops on biodiversity and health, jointly convened by the CBD and WHO for the Africa, Americas, and Europe regions, and, most recently, for ASEAN member states. Further details on previous regional workshops on biodiversity and health are available at: [www.cbd.int/health](http://www.cbd.int/health)

The overall objectives of the regional workshop on biodiversity and health for the SEARO region will be to:

- a) Provide support to countries to mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into environmental and public health policies, plans and projects;
- b) Strengthen national capacities on biodiversity and human health inter-linkages;
- c) Provide a forum for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned for the integration of biodiversity and health linkages among countries in the SEARO region, and in small island developing states; and
- d) Promote the integration of human health and biodiversity linkages into national health strategies, national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and other relevant national reporting instruments.

The workshop will thus support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the emerging post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris climate agreement. New Guidance on biodiversity, nutrition and health will be launched at the workshop. Additionally, a special report on biodiversity, nutrition and health will be launched at the workshop and a series of recommendations that draw on workshop outcomes will also be adopted.

Further to a memo submitted by the WHO Regional Office to all WHO country office representatives seeking nominations for the workshop, I invite CBD focal points to liaise with the WHO country office representatives to facilitate the nomination of a participant from your country with relevant expertise on biodiversity.

To: CBD National Focal Points: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.



Please note that the nomination deadline is 10 February 2020. For further information please contact Cristina Romanelli (cristina.romanelli@cbd.int) with copy to Marina Maiero (maierom@who.int).

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema  
Acting Executive Secretary