



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JZ/43353

3 June 2004

**NOTIFICATION**

**Re: Regional Workshop for Africa on synergy among the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions in implementing the programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biodiversity, Gaborone, Botswana, 13 – 17 September 2004**

Dear Madam/Sir,

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision VII/2 on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the other Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions (including in particular the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention (WHC) listed in paragraph 2 of decision VII/26), to further develop mechanisms for facilitating the synergistic implementation of these conventions, especially at the national level [...], including through organization and follow-up of national and regional synergy workshops (paragraph 5, section c, iv).

Subject to the availability of voluntary contributions, I am planning to convene, in close collaboration with the Executive Secretaries of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a regional workshop for Africa on the issue of promoting synergy in the implementation of the Rio and other biodiversity-related conventions. The Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the financial mechanism for the three conventions, is involved as a partner.

The CBD programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and on agricultural biodiversity will form the thematic framework of the workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to: (i) document and share lessons learnt from international initiatives on synergy in implementation of the three Rio conventions, (ii) develop models of potential pilot initiatives on synergistic implementation of the CBD programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and agrobiodiversity taking into account the provisions of the Rio and other biodiversity-related conventions, (iii) develop and/or strengthen interactions among experts and practitioners working at the national level with the various conventions, and (iv) facilitate the development of new synergistic plans and programmes or promote synergy in relevant ongoing activities in dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural ecosystems.

To: CBD National Focal Points in Africa

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A summary report with practical recommendations on the implementation of synergy activities will be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and the full report at its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, when the implementation of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands will be reviewed in depth (decision VII/31).

I invite you to nominate, at your earliest convenience but no later than **1 July 2004**, an expert/a team of experts from your country who can be called to participate in the workshop. I encourage the nomination of country teams consisting of experts responsible for implementation of the CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC and GEF focal points, as well as experts on other biodiversity related Conventions. Nominations should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae that clearly indicates the areas of expertise in accordance with the following selection criteria:

- Active involvement in the implementation of the Rio conventions and other biodiversity related conventions;
- In-depth knowledge of dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity and the interface with agricultural biological diversity;
- Readiness to contribute relevant case-studies from the country, and working knowledge of English.

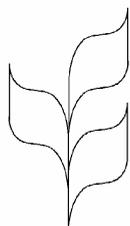
The selection of experts will be based on expertise, taking into account gender balance and geographical distribution. Please indicate which convention(s) the nominated expert represents and ensure that she/he is available at the specified workshop dates.

Kindly find the provisional agenda of the workshop attached to this notification.

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



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

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PRACTICING SYNERGY INITIATIVE -  
WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA  
Gaborone, Botswana, 13-17 September 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. Opportunities for synergies in the implementation of the Rio conventions, other biodiversity-related conventions and projects undertaken through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), particularly in the framework of the programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and agrobiodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. Experiences in the synergistic implementation of the Rio and other biodiversity-related conventions at the international and national levels.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.
7. Closure of the meeting.

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