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17 December 2013

NOTIFICATION

Capacity-building workshop for West Asia and North Africa on ecosystem conservation and restoration to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Amman, Jordan – 1 to 5 February 2014

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to announce that the Secretariat is organizing, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a capacity-building workshop for West Asia and North Africa on ecosystem conservation and restoration to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be held from 1 to 5 February 2014 in Amman, Jordan. The workshop will be held in Arabic with English translation. The provisional agenda and other meeting documents will soon be available on the CBD website at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CBWECR-2014-01>.

This workshop is part of a series being organized through the generous financial assistance of the Government of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund). The aim of the workshop is to support Parties in:

- (a) The development of national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11 and 15;
- (b) The integration of these targets and plans into updated NBSAPs and mainstreaming into broader national policies, plans and programmes (in particular for PoWPA action plans with respect to decision X/31 (paragraph 1 (c))); and
- (c) The use of appropriate assessment, policy and planning tools to promote ecosystem conservation and restoration at appropriate levels.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11 and 15 set quantitative global targets to reduce the loss of natural habitats, improve protected area networks and restore degraded areas. Target 5 calls for the rate of loss of natural habitats to be at least halved; Target 11 calls for the protection of at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland waters and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas; and Target 15 calls for the restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems. There is a need for a coherent approach to the achievement of these targets, including as they contribute toward, or depend on, achieving many other Aichi Targets (e.g. Targets 7, 12, 13, and 14). The Secretariat plans to offer capacity-building to Parties within an integrated, participatory, approach to promote holistic planning and implementation at landscape level.

These capacity-building activities respond to multiple requests from the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Executive Secretary including: paragraph 10 of decision XI/24, which requested the continued support for implementation of national action plans for the programme of work on protected

To: CBD National Focal Points of the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen



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areas (PoWPA), including through workshops and making available relevant tools; and paragraph 5 of decision XI/16, wherein the COP requested the Executive Secretary to make use of the information documents UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/17, 18 and 19 to conduct capacity-building workshops on ecosystem restoration. Furthermore, these activities will assist the Secretariat to report to the twelfth meeting of the COP on progress by Parties in integrating PoWPA action plans into revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and into relevant sectoral plans and budgets as invited in paragraph 1 (c) of decision X/31.

I am pleased to invite your Government to nominate one representative to participate in the workshop, as soon as possible but not later than **5 January 2014**. The nomination must be in the form of an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary, sent by fax to +1 (514) 288-6588 or e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int, and must include the nominee's full contact details, as well as a *curriculum vitae* clearly indicating the areas of expertise.

Parties are requested to use the following criteria when submitting their nominations:

- (a) Participants must have experience in spatial planning for biodiversity, such as the protected area focal point, and/or be responsible for land-use/spatial planning, as well as be knowledgeable about their countries' NBSAP;
- (b) All participants must be in a position to translate the knowledge gained into concrete actions;
- (c) All participants must be capable of reporting on the current status of achieving the area-based Aichi Targets (5, 11 and 15), providing an assessment of needs, and liaising with key partners to facilitate support for follow up actions; and
- (d) Participants must be able to work in either Arabic or English.

The Secretariat will be in a position to support one delegate from eligible Parties. Another participant from each country, an expert in forest and rangeland management, will be invited through FAO from among those participating at the 21st Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission, to be held in Amman, Jordan, from 26 to 30 January 2014.

The workshop approach includes the cooperation of partner agencies and initiatives and provides background information to Parties to facilitate work prior to and during the sub-regional workshop as well as follow up support to Parties. Therefore, in the weeks leading up to the workshop, the representatives will be provided country-specific information and data, as well as a case study template, and asked to submit information on the status of restoration and conservation activities in their countries. Participants will also be offered the opportunity to benefit from online modules on key workshop themes, including protected areas. The capacity gained can be shared with staff in-country who may also take these modules.

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.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary