Ref.: SCBD/IMS/NP/JC/LC/AC/92158 3 April 2025

**NOTIFICATION**

**Regional dialogue for member States of the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community on the update or revision of national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans**

**19-23 May 2025, Cape Town, South Africa**

Dear Sir or Madam,

 I am pleased to advise that a regional dialogue for member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and of the East African Community (EAC) on the update or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans will be held from **19 to 23 May 2025** in Cape Town, South Africa. A few anglophone African countries that are not member States of the South African Development Community (SADC) or East African Community (EAC) are also invited to this dialogue.

 The dialogue is organized in response to decisions [16/1](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-01-en.pdf), [16/31](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-31-en.pdf), [16/32](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-32-en.pdf) and [16/35](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-35-en.pdf). In its decision [16/1](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-01-en.pdf), the Conference of the Parties urgedParties that had not yet done so to revise or update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as requested in decision [15/6](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf), as soon as possible. In decision [16/32](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-32-en.pdf), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene regional and/or sub-regional dialogues, taking into consideration the experiences and lessons learned from the previous regional dialogues. In decision [16/31](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-31-en.pdf), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to support inclusive and participatory processes to facilitate the operationalization of the monitoring framework by facilitating capacity building and development activities related to the implementation of the monitoring framework at the national level. In decision [16/35](https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-35-en.pdf), the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to raise awareness of their ongoing processes for the update or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans across various national policy and planning processes, sustainable development strategies and policy instruments relevant to the implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements.

 The dialogue is being organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the African Union Commission, with the support of the Government of South Africa and the South African National Biodiversity Institute.

 The dialogue will provide an opportunity for countries to share their good practices on the updating or revision of NBSAPs, to address challenges encountered and to identify possible solutions, with a view to accelerating the national processes. The dialogue will also provide an opportunity for the countries and sub-regional entities involved to reflect on the regional implications, including the implementation of regional biodiversity strategies and action plans in light of the outcomes of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to its Protocols. The dialogue also aims to enhance national capacities for the implementation of the monitoring framework at the national level. In response to a key capacity development need highlighted in the previous regional dialogues, participants will discuss the development of a national monitoring plan and system for NBSAP implementation, including the development and use of indicators. The dialogue will also include sessions on the integration into the NBSAP of objectives of, or related to the Protocols, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, agri-food systems and One Health.

 I therefore invite each Party that is a member state of the SADC or EAC to nominate two representatives to attend. It is advised that one nominee be the national focal point for the Convention or a government official who is responsible for leading the work on revising or updating the NBSAP, monitoring and reporting, and a second nominee be the national focal point for the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. For anglophone African countries that are not member States of the SADC or EAC, I invite each Party concerned to nominate one person to attend. It is advised that this nominee be the national focal point for the Convention or a government official or expert who is responsible for leading the work on revising or updating the NBSAP, monitoring and reporting.

 Nomination letters should be signed by the national focal point of the Convention or the Head of the competent authority. Information on nominees and travel-related information should be submitted through the nomination form annexed to this notification. The number of participants is limited. The selection of experts invited to attend will be made based on the expertise of nominees, taking into account the date of receipt of the nomination form. For CBD national focal points, please email the completed nomination form, along with an electronic copy of your passport-biodata page, no later than **14 April 2025** to secretariat@cbd.int, with copy to hamida.mohammad@un.org . For focal points of the FAO International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of member States of the SADC and EAC, please email the completed nomination form, along with an electronic copy of your passport-biodata page, no later than **14 April 2025** to: secretariat@cbd.int, with a copy to rutendo.tinarwo@fao.org .

 Participants eligible for funding will be provided with air travel, accommodation, meals and daily subsistence allowance for incidental costs according to UN rules. Documents and relevant information relevant to the dialogue will be made available in due course.

 To contribute to this dialogue, the Secretariat and its partners may also invite a limited number of representatives of United Nations agencies, regional organizations, major stakeholder groups, and regional scientific and technical cooperation centres that are relevant to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the region.

 I look forward to receiving nominations from Parties at the earliest opportunity.

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

(*Signed*) Astrid Schomaker

Executive Secretary

Enclosure

**Regional dialogue for member States of the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community on the update or revision of national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans**

**19-23 May 2025, Cape Town, South Africa**

**Nomination Form**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Indicate name as shown in your passport)*

Job Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Country/Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Travelling From (Town/City and Country): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Departure Airport: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Passport Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***For CBD national focal points, please email the completed nomination form, along with an electronic copy of your passport-biodata page, no later than 14 April 2025 to:*** ***secretariat@cbd.int******, with copy to*** ***hamida.mohammad@un.org***.

***For focal points of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of member states of the South African Development Community and East African Community, please email the completed nomination form, along with an electronic copy of your passport-biodata page, no later than 14 April 2025 to:*** ***secretariat@cbd.int******, with a copy to*** ***rutendo.tinarwo@fao.org*** ***.***