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8 July 2014

NOTIFICATION

Capacity-building workshop for Mesoamerica on ecosystem conservation and restoration to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 25-28 August 2014, and Inter-regional capacity-building workshop on REDD¹ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 29-31 August 2014, San José, Costa Rica

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to announce that the Secretariat is organizing a capacity-building workshop on ecosystem conservation and restoration to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets back-to-back with an Inter-regional workshop on REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets in San José, Costa Rica on 25-28 August and 29-31 August, respectively. Noting the significant synergies between the objectives of REDD+ and those laid out in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that remain unexplored, these workshops offer a key opportunity to ensure that the two processes are complementing one another at the national level.

The Mesoamerican workshop, organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), will be conducted in Spanish. This workshop is part of a series being organized through the generous financial assistance of the Governments of Japan, Germany, Canada and the Republic of Korea. Meeting documents will be posted on the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CBWECCR-2014-09> in due course.

Through the Mesoamerican workshop, the Secretariat plans to offer capacity-building to Parties within an integrated and participatory approach to promote holistic planning and implementation at the landscape level. The aims of the workshop are 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 action plans on the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) 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.

The Inter-regional workshop, organized in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme-Wold Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and financially supported by the Government of Japan, will be conducted in English with simultaneous Spanish/French interpretation. Meeting documents will be posted

¹ REDD+ is used as a shorthand for "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries", consistent with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The acronym REDD+ is used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the UNFCCC.

To: CBD National Focal Points: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama



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on the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) website <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=FBWS-2014-01>, in due course.

Through the Inter-regional workshop, the CBD and UNEP-WCMC plan to explore the synergies between Aichi Biodiversity Targets and objectives of REDD+ to develop a coherent approach to landscape planning processes with a view to support Parties in:

- (a) Increasing coordination between REDD+ and CBD focal points through a sharing of experiences and knowledge through case study presentations, practical exercises and break-out discussions;
- (b) Integrating REDD+ actions into updated NBSAPs and mainstreaming into broader national policies, plans and programmes; and
- (c) Demonstrating the appropriate data gathering processes (such as spatial information), assessments, policies, and other planning tools for implementing a coherent approach to REDD+ and NBSAP actions.

I am pleased to invite your Government to nominate one representative to participate in the two workshops, as soon as possible but not later than **30 July 2014**. The nomination should be in the form of an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary and signed by the national focal point, sent by fax to +1 (514) 288-6588 or e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int, and should 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;
- (b) Participants must be capable of reporting on the current status of NBSAPs as well as achieving the area-based Aichi Biodiversity Targets (5, 11 and 15), providing an assessment of needs, and liaising with key partners to facilitate support for follow up actions; and
- (c) Participants must be in a position to translate the knowledge gained into concrete actions.

In the weeks leading up to the workshops, the representative will be provided with pre-work questions and asked to submit a case study and information on the status of restoration and conservation activities in their countries.

The Secretariat is in a position to support one expert from eligible Parties. An expert on forestry will be nominated through FAO channels from eligible Parties.

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