



SCBD/STTM/JM/PD/42259

18 March 2004

NOTIFICATION

**Re: Launching of the Island Biodiversity Electronic Forum**

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted its multi-year programme of work up to 2010. Island biodiversity was identified as the item for in-depth consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Brazil in the first half of 2006.

To this end, in paragraph 8 of decision VII/31, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a preparatory process for the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on island biodiversity which should include, *inter alia*, electronic forums, a meeting of an ad hoc technical expert group in mid-2004, and a liaison group meeting to be held immediately after the International Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action, which will take place in Mauritius in August/September 2004.

In the development of the aforementioned process, the Executive Secretary was also requested to allow input from the widest possible range of Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations, stakeholders and indigenous and local communities, in particular from small island developing States.

In response to this request, and in order to allow the widest possible participation, the Secretariat has created the Island Biodiversity Electronic Forum (IBEF) which can be accessed at: <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/island/forum.asp>.

The electronic forum consists of five main sections, which respond to different issues and information needs identified in the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity contained in annex II to decision VII/31.

In order to participate in the electronic forum, it is necessary to obtain a login and password from the Secretariat by contacting Ms. Paola Deda, e-mail: [paola.deda@biodiv.org](mailto:paola.deda@biodiv.org), tel. (514) 287 8710.

To: CBD National Focal Points  
UN organizations, as per list  
NGOs, as per list  
ILCs, as per list

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In order to allow the Secretariat to include information gathered through the Island Biodiversity Electronic Forum in the documentation to be considered by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity, all the submissions should be received no later than **Friday, 30 April 2004**. The electronic forum will be deactivated after this date.

Should you experience difficulties in accessing the internet, information may also be sent by mail or faxed to:

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,  
393 St. Jacques Street, suite 300  
Montreal , Quebec, H2Y 1N9  
Canada  
Fax. (514) 288 6588  
Attention of : Ms. Paola Deda

I thank you for your interest in the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary