



Ref.: SCBD/OES/DC/RH/84326

20 June 2017

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to provide relevant information and views related to the proposals for new and emerging issues

Dear Madam/Sir,

Further to [notification 2017-014](#), I wish to inform you that the Secretariat received seven submissions of proposals for new and emerging issues, which are accessible on the website of the Convention at: <https://www.cbd.int/emerging/>. Three of the submissions, from Parties, recommended that no new and emerging issue be added to the agenda of a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as a result of this round of submissions. A summary of the four substantive proposals is annexed to this notification.

In accordance with procedures set out in decision IX/29, I would like to invite Parties and relevant organizations to contribute relevant information and views related to the submissions received, taking into account the criteria listed in paragraph 12 of the same decision, by **15 August 2017**.

Parties and relevant organizations are also invited to submit views on the process for the identification of new and emerging issues laid out as additional elements to the consolidated modus operandi for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice ([section II of decision IX/29](#)), taking into account the questions contained in paragraph 5 of the Annex to this notification.

The information and views received in response to this notification will serve to prepare documentation on the related agenda item for the twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Thank you for your cooperation and your continued support for the work of the Convention.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points and relevant organizations

ANNEX

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS OF NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES RECEIVED AFTER COP-13

1. The Executive Secretary invited, through [notification 2017-014](#), the submission of proposals for new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. In response, seven submissions were received: four from Parties (Australia, Canada, European Union and Iraq), two from organizations (Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA), University of the South Pacific) and one from an individual. The submissions are available online at: <https://www.cbd.int/emerging/>.
2. A compilation of the substantive submissions is provided below with a view to facilitating the contributions, by Parties and relevant organizations, of relevant information and views related to these proposals taking into account the criteria listed in paragraph 11 of [decision IX/29](#).

Summary information on substantive proposals received in response to notification 2017-014

| Title and proponent | Summary information | Information provided in accordance with para 11 of decision IX/29 | Other observations |
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| Environmental and social consequences of forced migration (Iraq) | The submission draws attention to the economic, social, political and environmental impacts of forcibly displaced people on the recipient areas, noting that these included impacts on biodiversity. It calls upon SBSTTA to inter alia develop tools for the identification and quantification of the environmental consequences of involuntary migration and to compile and share information on adaptation strategies and governance models. | No | Any future work should take into account activities of, and avoid duplication with, inter alia, UN Environment's Disasters and Conflicts programme, the UN Office of the Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. |
| Jurisdiction shopping and selection of non-genetic-material media for transmission (Peruvian Society for Environmental Law) | The submission suggests that jurisdiction shopping and transfer of non-genetic material are used as legal means of access that circumvent the access and benefit-sharing (ABS) provisions of the Convention and undermine the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It proposes that ABS requirements should be built on the concept of 'natural information'. | Yes | The argument relates to ongoing discussions under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, particularly the cross-cutting issue of digital sequence information on genetic resources as well as Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol. A similar submission was made after COP-12. |
| Legislative and regulatory frameworks to | The submission calls for a number of activities of particular relevance to Pacific island States, including | No | The submission focuses on ongoing processes at the regional level to advance the |

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| govern bioprospecting and use of digital sequence information (University of the South Pacific) | the development of related legislative and regulatory frameworks to govern bioprospecting and use of digital sequence information in support of national activities in the context of the sustainable management of marine and terrestrial genetic resources, and additional efforts on the review of implementation of selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets. | | ability of Pacific countries to effectively operate within the framework provided by the Nagoya Protocol and other relevant international agreements. |
| Marine Dust from the Sahara Desert in Africa Nourishing the Mighty Amazon Rainforest of South America (Babagana Abubakar) | The submission draws attention to the geo-ecological process of intercontinental transportation of nutrient-rich dust from Central Africa to the Amazon basin. | No | The mandate of the Executive Secretary, as specified in decision IX, section II, paragraph 8, is to notify and receive proposals from Parties and organizations, not from individuals. |

3. Three Parties (Australia, Canada, and the European Union) recommended that no new and emerging issue should be added to the agenda of a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as a result of this round of submissions.

4. In addition, Canada recommended that the process for the identification of new and emerging issues should be reviewed. Parties and relevant organizations are therefore invited to also submit views on the process for the identification of new and emerging issues. The existing procedure is set out in section II of [decision IX/29](#).

5. In providing views on the process for the identification of new and emerging issues Parties and relevant organizations, might wish to comment on the following questions related to the criteria:

(a) Should paragraph 12 of decision IX/29 be understood as implying that an issue qualifies only if all seven criteria are fulfilled or can it qualify if some of these criteria are fulfilled?

(b) Should paragraph 12 of decision IX/29 be understood as implying that an issue qualifies only if it has potential negative consequences for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (risk, impact) or can it qualify if it focuses on opportunities to advance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?

(c) Are there adjustments to the criteria that should be considered?

(d) Are there additional criteria that should be added to the ones listed in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29?