



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Reference: EMG/IB/2009/jw

Date: 5 March 2009

Dear Colleague,

I wish to draw your attention to the outcome of the Technical Meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG) which was held from 14 to 15 February 2009, in Nairobi, in the margins of the 25th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Forum (GC.25/GMEF). The meeting was convened in response to the decision of the 14th Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG to consider two new issues: the 2010 biodiversity target and sustainable land-use.

The report of the meeting together with its recommendations is attached, which confirms the commitment and interest of members to address the two issues. Views on those recommendations have also been invited from members who were unable to attend the meeting. The consideration by the EMG of these two issues was welcomed by governments in a decision taken by GC.25/GMEF.

I am grateful to the President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, for attending the meeting together with other Bureau members. Their participation helped outline the expectations from the multilateral process on the 2010 biodiversity target to the UN system. In considering the invitation to contribute to the process, the meeting recommended that the UN system should take a forward looking approach and engage in a light and web-supported process for contributing to the formulation of the post 2010 target and sub-targets.

In line with the recommendations, I wish to propose that the EMG establish a time-bound Issue Management Group (IMG) on the 2010 biodiversity target process. The aim of such an IMG is to contribute to the 2010 biodiversity target process as recommended in paragraph 6 of the meeting report. The contribution will inform member states in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session in September 2010 and the CBD COP 10 in October 2010.

Encl. (1)

Executive Office

P. O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya • Tel: (254 20) 762 3386/3416/ 3652 • Fax: (254 20) 762 4275 / 4608 • E-mail: executiveoffice@unep.org

www.unep.org



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Given the relevance of the biodiversity challenges to human-wellbeing and sustainable development, I believe the IMG would benefit from the participation of the widest possible range of EMG members. I would therefore be grateful if you could designate a representative from your organization as focal point to this IMG and communicate the name to the EMG Secretariat by email to EMG@unep.ch at your earliest convenience.

I would like to take the opportunity to propose that the first meeting of the IMG be held on 8 April 2009 in Paris in the margins of the seventh session of the CBD Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing. The meeting will consider the detailed modalities and time frame of the work of the IMG. The agenda and background information for the meeting will be communicated to the focal points shortly.

On the issue of sustainable land-use, the EMG Technical Meeting recommended further consultations to identify potential specific and time-bound issues which may require UN system-wide support to the UNCCD strategy. A consultative meeting of the EMG is envisaged in the margins of the 17th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in New York to consider the outcome of these consultations. Further details on this meeting will also be communicated to you in due course.

I look forward to your agency's participation in the IMG on the 2010 biodiversity target, and our continued consultation on sustainable land-use.

Yours sincerely,

Achim Steiner
Executive Director and
Chair of the EMG

Copy to : Members of the CBD Bureau

Executive Office

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