



Ref.: SCBD/ITS/DC/LC/74634

21 January 2011

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Guidelines for the Fifth National Report under the Convention

Dear Madam/Sir,

In its decision X/2, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020). While adopting this strategy for the next decade, the COP urged Parties and other Governments to develop national targets in line with the Strategic Plan and to report on this to COP-11, and also to review, and as appropriate update and revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, integrating the targets, and to report on this to COP-11 or COP-12.

In its decision X/10, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to submit the fifth national report by **31 March 2014**. I wish to encourage all Parties to meet this deadline as timely submission of the fifth national report is very crucial for a mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) to be undertaken at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. I am pleased to inform you that the guidelines for the fifth national report, adopted by decision X/10, are now available in all UN languages are available for use on the Convention's website at: www.cbd.int/nr5. Additional tools and guidance to support the preparation of the fifth national report, as requested in decision X/10, will be made available at this site in due course. If you have any questions about the use of the guidelines, please contact the Secretariat any time.

I would encourage all Parties to initiate work as early as possible on both the updating of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the preparation of the fifth national report. With the support of Japan and other donors, the Secretariat is organizing a series of regional or sub-regional workshops to assist Parties in updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including development of national targets. Further information is available at www.cbd.int/nbsap and separate notifications for each of these workshops will be sent to the countries of the relevant regions or sub-regions in due course.

To: CBD Primary National Focal Points

For eligible countries, funding is available from the Global Environment Facility to support their enabling activities in the development and updating of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the preparation of the fifth national report. Eligible countries are encouraged to initiate the application for funding for these purposes through their GEF focal points at their earliest convenience.

To support the preparation of the fifth national report, as requested in decision X/10, the Secretariat will work with partners to develop tools and organize capacity development workshops, if such funds are available.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary