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20 March 2019

NOTIFICATION

Sub-regional exchange for the Pacific on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems Nadi, Fiji – 28 to 31 May 2019

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to announce that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is jointly organizing with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Government of Fiji and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, a sub-regional exchange workshop for the Pacific on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to be held from 27 to 31 May 2019 in Nadi, Fiji. The workshop will be conducted in English. Workshop documents will be posted on the CBD website at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/ecr-om-2019-01> and at www.feri-biodiversity.org/nadi in due course.

This workshop is one of a series organized through the implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) by the Secretariat of the CBD with the generous financial assistance of the Korea Forest Service of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The FERI was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD at its twelfth meeting in decision XII/19. At its thirteenth meeting, in decision XIII/5, the COP welcomed progress in the implementation of the FERI and adopted a short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration. Also in decision XIII/5, the COP requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to support the efforts of Parties in making use of the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration by enabling capacity-building and supporting the use of tools in collaboration with relevant partners and initiatives, including by implementing the FERI in collaboration with FAO.

The overall aim of the workshop is to support Parties in developing and implementing national plans on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems in the context of the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration. Participating countries will be invited to examine their national targets, plans and objectives, and to review the status of degraded forests and other ecosystems with a view to prioritizing areas for ecosystem restoration. An ambition for ecosystem restoration in the Pacific, including a focus on forests, would be estimated from the national targets.

Parties are invited to nominate one representative to participate in this workshop. The Secretariat will be in a position to finance the participation of one representative from each Party eligible for funding. Nominations must include an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary, signed by the National Focal Point, indicating the name and full contact details of the nominee. Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible and by **12 April 2019** online at www.feri-biodiversity.org/nadi-registration and with copy sent to secretariat@cbd.int. Please note that the nominated experts must ensure that their passport is valid for a period of six months after travel.

To: CBD National Focal Points of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Parties are requested to use the following criteria when determining their nominations. The nominee should:

- (a) Have a level of responsibility for making decisions on land use/spatial planning such as for biodiversity, forest ecosystems, and ecosystem restoration;
- (b) Be able to complete a pre-workshop survey on national plans and status of the restoration of forests and landscapes;
- (c) Be in a position to promote actions to achieve national commitments on the restoration of forests and landscapes; and
- (d) Be in a position to translate the knowledge gained into concrete cross-sectoral actions to enhance policy and planning coherence on the restoration of forests and landscapes.

For your information, FAO will be directly inviting the participation of forestry experts from member countries of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission through FAO channels. National focal points to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification are also invited to attend at their own expense.

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.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary