

Date: 25 May 2007
Ref.: RB/srr-120
cc.: had, gdk, mnd

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: International experts meeting on traditional knowledge for sustainable development - Florence, Italy

I would like to make reference to the last decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD on the key issue of traditional knowledge.

As you may know, these decisions build upon a rich background of consultations and targeted initiatives undertaken by the UNCCD secretariat in close cooperation with the Government of Italy, other institutional partners and international organizations, as well as internationally recognized experts in this field.

Aware of the unique potential of the matter at stake for the effective and strengthened promotion of sustainable development, the UNCCD secretariat, the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, and the Regional Government of Tuscany have renewed their partnership in the area, with the view of further expand the consensual basis of traditional knowledge and providing the international community with an enabling tool for exchange and cooperation.



It is within this perspective that the above-mentioned partners, with the technical assistance of Ipogea, have planned to convene an **international experts meeting on traditional knowledge for sustainable development** in the City of Florence, Italy, during the last week of June 2007.

The essential objective of this meeting would be to set the basis of an interactive and multidisciplinary network of expertise available in the area of traditional knowledge for sustainable land and water management and its potential contribution to global challenges in terms of mitigation and adaptation measures and practices.

In this context, we will revert back to you very soon with the view to update you on the final arrangements foreseen for the expert meeting, including its timing and venue. Additional information and documentation on this important initiative will also be posted on the Secretariat's web page at www.unccd.int.

Looking forward to your precious support and cooperation in this common endeavor, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Hama Arba Diallo
Executive Secretary