

Please refer to your Ref.: SCBD/OIC/DC/RH/84326 dated February 2017, Notification “Invitation to provide information on new merging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources”.

The Center for Drug Discovery and Conservation (CDDC) of the University of the South Pacific (USP) appreciates the numerous ongoing initiatives by the CBD secretariat to reach out to every stakeholders and collate feedbacks.

CDDC acknowledges the secretariat for your leadership in ensuring that parties to the convention on biological diversity (CBD) ratify the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing. It is through your strong leadership that just very recently South Korea and Japan has now ratified the Nagoya Protocol and we commend you for that.

CDDC recognizes the need to work with the secretariat and sees itself as a vital partner and has the expertise and capacity to contribute toward achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 6, 16, 17, 19 and the strategic goals A – E in the pacific island region.

As a regional center, we are in a unique position to reach out to the twelve member countries of USP and in the true spirit of collaboration hereby proposes the following issues for full consideration and deliberation by the Subsidiary body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its twenty-first meeting;

1. We propose for the establishment of regional legislative and regulatory frameworks for governing bioprospecting and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing in the pacific island region.
2. We call for the establishment of a regulatory framework for access and use of digital sequence and chemical structures derived from biological resources including a proper mechanism for addressing bio-piracy both at the regional and national level. There are many instances where foreign researchers enter into pacific island countries and leave with research materials without the proper knowledge of authorities.
3. Countries can develop their own national frameworks from the regional framework for the sustainable management of their marine and terrestrial genetic resources.
4. We call for the mainstreaming of bioprospecting into national development policies and its inclusion as a major component under both NBSAP and Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA).
5. Despite of their various national reports on the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity, as a major stakeholder, we feel that many of the pacific island regions have yet to achieve many of the Aichi Targets therefore, we call for a realistic and holistic review of Aichi Targets 1, 6, 16, 17 and 19.

Submitted by;

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