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Réf N°: Biodiversity workshop

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Dear .....,

On behalf of the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative, I would like to invite you to a workshop entitled, *Biodiversity & the Global Market Economy*. The event will be held on **14-15 November 2006** at UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The workshop will bring together the Secretariats of biodiversity-related MEAs to exchange experiences with respect to private-sector engagement, incentive measures and international trade.

The focus of the workshop will be on exploring opportunities, challenges and lessons learnt in the above-mentioned areas. Specific areas for (potential) collaboration among the Secretariats and for specialization within the Secretariats will also be explored. Depending on the outcomes of this first workshop, a decision will be taken on potential follow-up meetings.

Through its BioTrade Initiative, UNCTAD is supporting sustainable development through trade and investment in biological resources. It frames its activities within the global conservation and development objectives established by biodiversity-related Conventions, such as the CBD and CITES. Through these efforts, UNCTAD has come to appreciate the real challenges facing the Conventions' Secretariats and has identified the need to promote greater collaboration and information-sharing among the Conventions.

As we continue to work with issues of trade and biodiversity, we would like to provide a space for open dialogue with Secretariats. In view of your experience, your participation in this event would be of great value. Please note that no financial support is available to facilitate your attendance for this first workshop.

Yours sincerely,

Lucas Assunção  
Chief, UNCTAD Biodiversity and Climate Change Section