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13 February 2017

NOTIFICATION

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network and *CBD in a Nutshell - A Guidebook to the CBD process*

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision XI/8, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) encouraged Parties to include youth fully in all relevant processes, and invited Parties to continue to provide support for youth initiatives and networks that support the objectives of the Convention. Decision XII/8 welcomed the development of appropriate ways, means and mechanisms to enhance effective and timely participation of stakeholders in meetings and processes of the Convention, its Protocols and subsidiary bodies.

Since its establishment in 2012, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network has contributed actively at the open-ended meetings of the Convention. Through the network, youth from 115 organizations in over 107 countries have benefitted from capacity-building activities, learned about effective engagement in CBD-related processes and implementation efforts and replicated their knowledge at international, national and local levels.

I would like to draw your attention to a new publication entitled *CBD in a Nutshell – A Guidebook to the CBD process*, that has been prepared by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and launched by the Network in the presence of representatives of partner and donor organizations at a side-event held at the margins of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP). Presented in an accessible and user-friendly format, the guidebook provides an excellent account of the decision-making processes of the CBD, its institutional framework, procedures for participation and other relevant information, and will serve as a very useful reference for stakeholders interested in joining the CBD processes. It was very well received at its launch event and following its distribution to COP delegates and stakeholders, and a number of Parties have indicated interest in translating the publication into other languages.

The guidebook will also serve as a basis for the development by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network of a capacity-building toolkit to be used in regional workshops for youth planned to take place in 2017 and 2018, reflected in the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision XIII/23.

To : CBD Focal Points and relevant organizations

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network has invited readers to provide comments and suggestions on the contents so that it may serve as a living document and with a view to the publication of a second edition. I invite you to consult the guidebook, available at the following address: <https://gybn.org/resources/guidebook>, and provide any comments and suggestions you may have to the focal points of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network at the following e-mail addresses: melina.sakiyama@gmail.com and christian.schwarzer@gmail.com. I further invite you to consider contributing to the Network's capacity-building efforts and to the dissemination of the guidebook, for example by translating the publication in the official languages of the United Nations and other languages.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary