

Francis Vorhies

Subject: Invitation to an Expert Workshop on achieving carbon offsets through mangroves and other wetlands (8-11 Nov 2009, Switzerland)

Attachments: DFN Expert workshop Nov 2009 - Registration Form.doc; DFN Expert Workshop Nov 2009 - Background paper.doc; DFN Expert Workshop Nov 2009 - draft Programme.doc

Importance: High

Invitation to participate in an Expert Workshop of the Danone Fund for Nature (DFN):

Achieving carbon offsets through mangroves and other wetlands

8-11 November 2009, Gland, Switzerland

It is with great pleasure that I write, on behalf of the partners of the "Danone Fund for Nature (DFN)" – the Ramsar Convention, IUCN and the Danone Group, to invite you to participate in an Expert Workshop in Gland, Switzerland from 8-11 November 2009 on establishing mechanisms for achieving carbon offsets in carbon markets through restoration of wetlands, and in particular through mangrove restoration.

This invitation is in recognition of your experience and expertise in one or more of the following aspects being addressed through this exciting new Danone Fund for Nature initiative, which was launched at Ramsar COP10 last October: wetland restoration, mangrove restoration, socio-economic values of wetlands, measurement of carbon in mangroves and other types of wetlands, and/or carbon offsets and markets. This Expert Workshop will bring together those directly involved in the development and implementation of the Danone Fund for Nature with a wider group of experts from other organizations working on, and/or with expertise in one or more aspects of these aspects of the issue under consideration, so as to review and advise on the further development of the Danone/IUCN/Ramsar initiative in the context of other related wetland-related carbon storage and offsets initiatives and projects.

Attached to this message are three documents: a Background paper about the issue and the work underway through the DFN; an outline programme and agenda; and a Registration Form.

I would be most grateful if you could confirm if you are able to participate in the workshop, by completing the Registration Form and returning it as soon as possible to my colleague Catherine Loetscher (loetscher@ramsar.org) here in the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

Once we receive your confirmation of participation, we will be in contact with you with further information about the workshop, general information about logistics and travel to Gland (the nearest airport is Geneva Airport), and hotel accommodation arrangements.

If you are able to participate, we hope that if possible you and your organisation will be able to cover your own costs of participation (travel and subsistence). However, if this is not possible, we do have some (limited) funds available to cover costs of participation by some experts: if you will need cost-coverage to participate, please advise Catherine Loetscher as quickly as possible, and we will then confirm to you whether your request can be met.

I would also like to draw to your attention important information on page 2 of the Registration Form concerning recent changes to visa regulations and related issues of medical insurance in Switzerland. In particular, as Switzerland is now a member of the "Schengen Accord", this concerns whether you will

need a Shengen Visa to enter Switzerland. If you will need this visa, or other transit visas for travel to and from Switzerland, we will be happy to provide you with a formal letter of invitation for visa purposes.

In terms of your travel schedule, you should plan to arrive in Switzerland in time for a welcome dinner on the evening of Sunday 8 November and depart not earlier than the afternoon of Wednesday 11 November (the workshop will finish at lunchtime that day).

On behalf of the Danone Fund for Nature partnership, we very much hope that you will be able to join us for the Expert Workshop, and we look forward to meeting you here in Gland in November.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Davidson

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