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# United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Ref. OED/DEC/0695 & 1180/05/NR/nm

8 June 2005

Dear Dr. Rubinoff,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2005 bringing to my attention the project proposal entitled "The Last Biotic Front: Planning a Census of Canopy Life-Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute" and requesting for financial support to cater for the travel and per diem costs of workshop participants from developing countries not covered by the European Science Foundation.

As noted in your letter, UNEP has a historical interest in the topic of biodiversity of forest canopies through our previous joint project. In view of UNEP's commitment to promote the scientific base of national decision making in the area of biodiversity and the applications of the ecosystem approach to global/regional biodiversity assessments, it is encouraging to note that the workshop will address the crucial role of the biodiversity of insects, mites and spiders in a biome of global importance i.e. tropical rainforest ecosystem.

It is also noteworthy to note that UNEP's Division of Global Environment Facility (UNEP/DGEF) is considering its support for a global project to support Tropical Forest Canopy work. Accordingly, UNEP is happy to be invited to co-sponsor the costs of the workshop participants by providing US\$ for that proposal. Furthermore, I confirm that UNEP will be represented at the workshop at our own cost. It is my conviction that CBD will likewise be represented at the workshop and meet its own travel cost.

I shall be most grateful to be kept abreast of the outcomes of both the workshop and the future activities emanating there-from, as the project will greatly contribute to the WSSD biodiversity target of significant reduction to the loss of biodiversity by 2010.



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