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Mr Alexey Koudriavtsev
Tomsk State University
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634026 Tomsk, Russia
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23 October 2002

Dear Mr Koudriavtsev,

In collaboration with the World Resources Institute, United Nations Environment Programme, and other organizations, IUCN-The World Conservation Union is organizing the 17th session of the Global Biodiversity Forum, to be held in Valencia, Spain, 15-17 November 2002, immediately prior to the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, to be held on 18-26 November. Information is available at www.gbf.ch.

The GBF is a mechanism that brings together governmental and non-governmental representatives to foster dialogue and information sharing on key biodiversity issues. GBF17-Valencia will address the following key issues:

- Wetlands restoration and mitigation
- Environmental governance and sustainable development: the contribution of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Agriculture, wetlands and water resources
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

On behalf of the organizers of the Forum, I cordially invite you at this event, which will greatly benefit from your participation. We are pleased to offer you a round-trip economy fare air ticket to Valencia and per diem at the daily rate of € 145 for up to 4 nights (a total of € 580). Your per diem will be provided to you at the Forum. We prefer to reimburse you for your travel costs and will require a copy of the receipt of your ticket stub, an invoice from your travel agent and details of how you wish to be reimbursed. Please ensure that you have this information with you.

We look forward to meeting you in Valencia.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline Martinet
GBF - Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Caroline Martinet", is written over the typed name and title.