

Republic of Serbia  
MINISTRY FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
Date: January 22, 2004  
Number: Official  
Belgrade

Mr. Rory O'Sullivan  
Country Manager  
Serbia and Montenegro  
**World Bank**  
**WB Country Office**  
Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra 86/VII  
Belgrade 11000

Dear Mr. O' Sullivan,

Serbia is one of Europe's prime biodiversity centers and agricultural biodiversity is an important part of it. Indigenous animal breeds and plant species play an important role in farm economy, especially in the central and southern part of our country. According approved documents, our Government is committed to protecting these resources and their contribution to the economy.

The Ministry for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment (MPNRE) with support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management (MAWM) decided to request GEF grant support under the GEF Operational Program #13 on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity Important to Agriculture. There are also several donors that have indicated interest in contributing to such a project. MAWM would implement the project with cooperation from MPNRE.

As GEF Focal Point for the Republic of Serbia, I would like to request World Bank assistance in preparing a project and submitting it to the GEF Council for grant funding.

Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely

MINISTER  
Ljiljana Mihajlov



CC: Mr. Stojan Jevtic, Minister of Agriculture and Water Management, Republic of Serbia