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Cristina Boelcke
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Division of Policy Development and Law
United Nations Environment Programme
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Dear Cristina Boelcke:

Re: UNEP Training on Environmental Law

Warm Greetings from Fiji.

I am Luke Qiritabu, a legal officer, formerly with the Department of Environment in Fiji, and a beneficiary of UNEP's training in Environmental Law at Nairobi and Bangkok.

I write to express my gratitude to UNEP for the wonderful opportunity it gave me during the training programmes it conducted, both in Nairobi (2001) and Bangkok (2004).

I was the project officer for the development of the Environment Management Act of Fiji and also had the responsibility of working on the drafting of the Endangered and Protected Species Act of Fiji and its regulations.

UNEP has provided me with an opportunity to leave a legacy in Fiji in that I was responsible for drafting of the key environmental legislations of the country. Without the training offered by UNEP, I would not have had the understanding of the issues that is necessary when writing environmental legislation. In my work on the Environment Management Act, I went on to extend the application of the Act to the extent of our EEZ and also including the Right to Life provisions of our Constitution as a key consideration of the Act.

I am presently working on the Biosecurity legislation with the intention of including Biosafety issues.

Words are not enough when I attempt to express my gratitude for the training UNEP provided me, as it is not everyday, one has an opportunity to leave a legacy that will echo into eternity.

A great many thanks to UNEP for the tremendous training programmes it provides for developing countries and I trust that UNEP will continue to provide these programmes as I am a witness, Fiji has been a beneficiary of your training programmes.

Yours sincerely



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Luke Qiritabu

Date: 10 August 2006

Cc: Kilaparti Ramakrishna
Deputy Director, Division of Policy Development & Law