



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/CB-CAR/1/1/Add.1
28 January 2013

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL
ON BIOSAFETY AND ITS SUPPLEMENTARY
PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS

St. George's, Grenada, 4 – 8 March 2013

Item 2 of the provisional agenda *

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

1. In its various decisions, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) has underscored the urgent need to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, to build their capacity for the effective implementation of the Protocol. Among other things, the COP-MOP invited Parties to, in particular, cooperate with and support the small island developing States, to: (i) assess their capacity-building needs (BS-1/5, paragraph 9); (ii) develop and implement national biosafety frameworks ((BS-II/3, paragraph 16); (iii) establish biosafety coordination mechanisms (BS-III/3, paragraph 16); (iv) implement the requirements for the documentation and identification of living modified organisms (BS-III/10, paragraph 12; BS-IV/9, paragraph 3; and BS-V/8, paragraph 4); (v) conduct risk assessment and risk management (BS-III/11, paragraph 18; and BS-IV/11, paragraph 12); and (vi) to access and use the Biosafety Clearing-House (BS-I/3, paragraph 10; BS-II/2 paragraphs 8 and 9; BS-III/2, paragraph 11; and BS-V/2, paragraphs 10 and 13).

2. At its fifth meeting, the COP-MOP also adopted the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and encouraged Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible and to embark on its implementation pending entry into force. At its sixth meeting, the COP-MOP, among other things, invited Parties to identify their capacity-building needs and establish national priorities in order to be able to effectively implement and apply the provisions of the Supplementary Protocol (decision BS-VI/11).

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3. Most small island developing States lack the necessary capacity to implement various provisions of the Protocol. For example, according to the information provided in the second national reports, more than 77 per cent of Parties among SIDS do not yet have biosafety laws, regulations and administrative measures in place; 90 per cent have not yet established a mechanism for taking decisions regarding LMOs, 86 per cent have not yet established a mechanism for monitoring potential effects of LMOs released into the environment, 55 per cent do not have the capacity to detect and identify LMOs, 59 per cent have not yet establish a mechanism for conducting risk assessments, 86 per cent do not have the necessary domestic capacity to conduct risk assessment, 64 per cent do not have mechanisms for risk management, 45 per cent lack appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs; 77 per cent have not yet taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMO shipments meet the requirements specified in the Protocol and MOP decisions; 50 per cent lack the capacity to enforce the LMOs identification and documentation requirements (see document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/16).

4. This workshop is being organized to contribute to the identification of needs and development of strategies for strengthening the capacities of Parties in the Caribbean subregion to effectively implement the Protocol. Participants will review the status of the implementation of the Protocol in the subregion, identify the priority capacity-building needs and discuss subregional strategies to strengthen national capacities and foster subregional cooperation and coordination.

5. The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

(a) Promote awareness of the recent developments under the Protocol, including the Strategic Plan of the Protocol for the period 2011-2020, the new capacity-building framework and action plan and other key decisions underpinning capacity-building efforts for the implementation of the Protocol;

(b) Review the status of implementation of the Protocol in the Caribbean subregion and share experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks;

(c) Identify national and subregional capacity-building needs and priorities and discuss ways to enhance subregional cooperation to address those needs; taking to account the ongoing UNEP-GEF Caribbean subregional capacity-building project on the implementation of national biosafety frameworks;

(d) Promote awareness of the objective and core requirements of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and review the challenges and opportunities with regard to its ratification and implementation.

6. The workshop is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with funding by the Government of Japan. At least 25 participants, including the national focal points, competent national authorities or other government officials involved in legislative processes at the national level, as well as representatives from regional organizations and other partners, are expected to attend.

7. The workshop will be conducted in English only. Documents for the workshop will be posted on the Protocol website (<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol>).

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

8. The workshop will be opened by a representative of the Government of Grenada at 9 a.m. on Monday, 4 March 2013. A representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

9. After self-introductions by the participants, a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will introduce the workshop objectives and expected outcomes, and present the

workshop agenda and the proposed organization of work as contained in the annex to the present document for adoption.

ITEM 3. THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY 2011-2020 AND OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE PROTOCOL

10. Under this agenda item, participants will be updated on the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020 and other recent developments under the Protocol, including the major decisions taken by the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The resource persons will make presentations on:

- (a) The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020,¹ national reporting and the upcoming second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol;
- (b) The Biosafety Clearing-House;²
- (c) Identification and documentation requirements for shipments of living modified organisms under Article 18 of the Protocol;
- (d) Risk assessment and risk management; and
- (e) The Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol (decision BS-VI/3, annex I) and its potential role in facilitating national and regional level capacity-building efforts.

11. Each of the presentations will be followed by a short period of questions and answers and brief discussions.

ITEM 4. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION: ONGOING INITIATIVES AND PRIORITY NEEDS

12. Under this agenda item, a representative of UNEP will present highlights of the UNEP-GEF Project for Implementing National Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Subregion and the outcomes of the inception workshop for the project held in October 2012 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Participants will then be invited to give short presentations on the status of biosafety capacity-building efforts in their respective countries. They will also be invited to identify and prioritize the national and subregional capacity-building needs not addressed by the UNEP-GEF project and brainstorm on possible strategies to address those needs. Prior to the workshop, participants will be requested to complete the capacity-building needs assessment common format which will be used to facilitate the discussion.³

ITEM 5. SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS IN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

13. Under this item, a resource person will give a presentation on “Experiences and lessons learned from subregional and regional biosafety capacity-building initiatives”. The participants will then discuss opportunities and measures for promoting subregional cooperation and coordination of biosafety capacity-building efforts in the Caribbean, including mechanisms for sharing existing human resources and facilities in the subregion, exchanging information, sharing national experiences and mobilizing

¹ Decision BS-V/3.

² See: <http://bch.cbd.int/>.

³ The capacity-building needs assessment common format can be download or completed online through the BCH at: <http://bch.cbd.int/managementcentre/edit/capacityBuildingNeeds.shtml>.

resources. Participants will be invited to suggest other possible opportunities for subregional cooperation and coordination.

ITEM 6. PROMOTING THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA – KUALA LUMPUR SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS

14. Under this item, participants will be introduced to the objective and core requirements of the Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, which was adopted, as a legally binding instrument, on 15 October 2010 by the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. They will consider and identify measures that may be needed at the national level in order to implement these requirements. Challenges and opportunities associated with ratification, accession to, and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol will also be reviewed. Furthermore, participants will be briefed on the status of ratification of the Supplementary Protocol and then introduced to the procedural steps in the process of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession. The possible advantages of ratification or accession to the Supplementary Protocol will also be highlighted.

ITEM 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Under this item, participants will be invited to discuss and agree on the way forward with regard to capacity-building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and for the ratification and implementation of its Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in the Caribbean subregion.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

16. During the last session, participants will review what has been covered during the week and complete a workshop evaluation form. The workshop is expected to end on Friday, 8 March 2013 at 1 p.m.

Annex

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

4 March 2013	
8.30 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Registration of participants.
9 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the workshop
9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 2. Workshop objectives and expected outcomes
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 3. The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other recent developments under the Protocol (a) Introduction to the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its role in guiding implementation of the Protocol at the national level Questions and answers
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> (b) Recent developments with regard to issues and processes underpinning the implementation of the Protocol: i) Overview of the status of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol based on the analysis of the second national reports Questions and answers
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	ii) The Biosafety Clearing-House iii) Current status and experience gained with the implementation of the identification and documentation requirements for shipments of living modified organisms under Article 18 of the Protocol Questions and answers
3.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Tea/Coffee break
4.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	iv) Capacity-building in risk assessment and risk management v) The global Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its potential role in facilitating capacity-building efforts at the national and regional levels Questions and answers

5 March 2013 9 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 4. Capacity-building for the implementation of the Protocol in the Caribbean subregion: ongoing initiatives and priority needs (a) Overview of the UNEP-GEF Project for Implementing National Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Subregion and summary outcomes of the inception workshop for the project, held in October 2012 in Port of Spain <i>Questions and answers</i>
10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i> (b) Country presentations on national biosafety capacity-building efforts and the unmet needs and priorities
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus discussion groups on national and subregional capacity-building needs and priorities and a possible subregional strategic framework for addressing those needs
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the focus group discussion reports
6 March 2013 9 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 5. Subregional cooperation and coordination of biosafety capacity-building efforts in the Caribbean subregion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on experiences and lessons learned from various regional and subregional capacity-building initiatives <i>Questions and answers</i>
10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 5 (continued):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus group discussions on measures to foster cooperation and coordination of biosafety capacity-building efforts in the Caribbean subregion
12.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the group discussion reports
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 6. Promoting ratification and implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the objective and core provisions of the Supplementary Protocol <i>Questions and answers</i>

3.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 6 (continued):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group exercises – addressing hypothetical cases on liability and redress
7 March 2013 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item 6 (continued):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations on national experiences with the development and implementation of liability and redress laws, in particular liability rules addressing environmental damage, if any
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 6 (continued):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations on national experiences
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 6 (continued):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures for the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol at the national level that may need capacity-building
3.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 6 (continued):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural steps in the process of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession to the Supplementary Protocol and possible advantages of ratifying or acceding to the Supplementary Protocol
8 March 2013 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 7. Conclusions and recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on the way forward with regard to capacity-building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in the Caribbean sub-region
10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions and recommendations <i>Agenda item:</i> 8. Evaluation and closure of the workshop
