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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
First meeting
Montpellier, France, 11-15 December 2000

**PREPARATION OF AN EXPLANATORY GUIDE TO THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

Submission by Denmark

Note by the Executive Secretary

At the request of the delegation of the Denmark, the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), a note entitled "Preparation of an explanatory guide to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety". The paper is being distributed in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

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For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies

**IUCN-Environmental Law Centre (IUCN-ELC)
Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD)**

Preparation of a Explanatory Guide to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Funded by the Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy,
as well as the European Commission

Aim and content

IUCN-ELC and FIELD will collaborate to prepare, publish and distribute widely an explanatory Guide to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, with the aim of :

- facilitating understanding of the legal obligations of Parties under the Protocol.
- assisting in raising awareness of the Protocol.

Briefly, the Guide will, *inter alia*,:

- describe the content of the Protocol, article by article, and theme by theme;
- explain the terms used, and the corresponding provisions – drawing as need be on the discussions and rationale which led to their final wording;
- describe the provisions of other international instruments which are relevant to the Protocol, including but not limited to those of the parent Convention; and
- point out options, if any, left open by the text, in particular those which might play a role in the decisions Parties will have to make in their implementation of the new treaty.

The purpose of the Guide is to contribute to capacity-building by providing an information base on the origin and content of the Protocol, accessible to the non-specialist.

Process

Work on the Guide will commence in January 2001. A small team of authors (legal and technical experts) will be constituted as the core group for the preparation of the Guide. The project partners will seek ongoing advice and comment throughout the project, and will liaise with other initiatives in this area in order to avoid duplication.

Consultations with a wide range of institutions and individuals, governmental and non-governmental, public and private, technical and legal, will take place during the preparation of the Guide. In particular, drafts of the Guide will be presented and reviewed in two or three international workshops during 2001/2002, and comments will be also sought through extensive mail consultations, including by electronic means (e-mail; WWW). Comments received will be taken into account in revision of the draft text prior to final review.

Output

It is envisaged that the Guide will be published in the IUCN ELP Series, which includes the Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1996), and in a web-based format, in time for COP 6.

Further information

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