

# *Sub-Regional Capacity Building Workshop for South Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism*

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## ***Clearing-House Mechanism Guidance & Work Programme***

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**Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)  
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

## Content

Overview  
Guidance  
Work Programme  
Final Comments



***Overview***

***Guidance***

***Work Programme***

***Final Comments***

## Content

► Overview  
Guidance  
Work Programme  
Final Comments



- **General Guidance**
- **Roadmap for Strengthening National CHM**
  - Institutional arrangements
  - Identification of national information sources
  - Content management
  - Development of national CHM websites
- **CHM Work programme**
  - Recommended activities to achieve CHM goals & objectives
  - Keeping in mind effectiveness, requirements, & sustainability

## Content

Overview

► Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



# National CHM - General Guidance

- **Promote and plan the CHM at national level**
  - Convince national decision-makers that CHM is useful
  - Integrate the CHM in the NBSAP
  - Identify & mobilize resources (National, GEF/NBSAP, other)
  - Prepare a plan with sustainability in mind
  - Establish inter-institutional coordination mechanism
  - Identify and capture national information & knowledge
- **Involve stakeholders and users**
  - Involve representatives of your target audience
  - When planning, testing and collecting feedback
  - Joint ongoing process to improve effectiveness
- **Adapt guidance and capacity-building to situation**
  - No one-size-fit-all solution
  - Various needs → Various responses

## Roadmap for establishing and strengthening National CHMs

### Content

Overview  
Guidance  
Work Programme  
Final Comments



Level	Situation	Action
0	No CHM NFP	Convince Party to nominate CHM NFP
1	CHM NFP not equipped	Find solutions to provide basic infrastructure & communication facilities
2	No CHM website	Get tools & support to establish web presence
3	National CHM web presence	Enhance web content to disseminate information and improve user experience
4	Fully-developed National CHM website	Encourage sharing of expertise to support other national CHM
5	Advanced CHM	Establish interoperability mechanisms with Central CHM & other networks

## **Convince Party to nominate CHM NFP**

- **Explain the important role of the CHM**
  - Support to the NBSAP process
  - Portal for national knowledge on biodiversity
  - Useful as national dissemination tool  
Public education & awareness
  - Can increase international visibility  
Country image, promotion of eco-tourism, ...
  - Should facilitate scientific & technical cooperation
- **Identify the right person or partner institution**
  - Survey of national biodiversity actors  
(scientific institution, museum, university, ...)
  - There may be a strong sustainable existing institution interested in carrying out the role of CHM NFP  
→ Win-Win situation
  - Role of CHM NFP is very different from CBD NFP



## Level 0 - CBD NFP vs. CHM NFP

### Content

Overview  
Guidance  
Work Programme  
Final Comments



CBD NFP	CHM NFP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Political Role</li><li>• Government representative</li><li>• Diplomat skills</li><li>• Decision-making process<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Negotiation</li><li>- National Policy</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical Role</li><li>• Project Manager</li><li>• Entrepreneur skills</li><li>• Implementation process<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Scientific &amp; tech. cooperation</li><li>- Information Management (gathering, disseminating)</li><li>- Webmaster</li></ul></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both roles are important &amp; time-consuming<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Require more than one person</li></ul></li><li>• A CBD+CHM NFP could delegate to 1 or more assistant(s)</li></ul>	

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



# Level 0 - Planning the new CHM

## Prepare a "business plan" for the New CHM

- **Institutional arrangements**
  - Responsibilities & Terms of references
  - Partnership arrangements
- **Resources allocation**
  - Staff & office space
  - Website hosting options
  - Web content production & management
- **Activities**
  - Building national contact network
  - Learn about NBSAP priorities, targets & implementation
  - Survey of scientific and technical cooperation
  - Information gathering & disseminating
  - Information architecture & web content preparation
  - Outreach & awareness activities



## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



# Level 1 - CHM NFP Not Equipped

## Provide basic infrastructure & communication facilities

- **Party's responsibility**
  - CHM NFP should be operational
  - Donors insist on sustainability
- **Prepare realistic project proposal**
  - First assess sustainability potential
  - Provide a detailed description/justification of needs
  - Project funding is temporary
- **Identify sustained resources**
  - At least small budget to maintain operations
  - Resources may be allocated if effectiveness is proven

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 2 - No National CHM Website

### Establish web presence

- **Several options to establish web presence**
  - New or existing website
  - Hosted in-house or externally
  - Select a content management system (CMS)
- **Important decision**
  - Based on available resources and expertise
  - Each option has advantages and drawbacks
  - Big impact on maintenance
  - Political aspect
  - Choose the safest and easiest approach
  - Don't undertake a big project without adequate resources

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 2 - No National CHM Web Site

### Options to establish web presence

- **Hosting a website**
  - Requires a solid infrastructure:  
Web server + Firewall + High speed Internet + Support 24/7
  - Don't do it unless you have a special team
- **Obtaining space on existing website**
  - Agreement with a strong supporting partner
  - Many African Countries have their website hosted in Belgium
- **Using a web hosting service**
  - Many options
  - Price depending on usage

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 2 - No National CHM Website

### Use a Content Management System

- **Highly recommended**
  - Avoid reinventing the wheel
  - Many features, including multi-lingual capabilities
  - Easier maintenance
  - Adherence to modern web standards (XHTML, CSS)
  - Extensible
- **Selecting a CMS**
  - Several good open-source CMS  
WordPress, Drupal, Joomla, Typo3
  - European Portal Toolkit (PTK)  
Customized open-source built for CHM
  - SCBD's CMS  
If hosted on existing CBD website
  - Commercial CMS  
CBD Secretariat has recently purchased Kentico CMS 6

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 3 - National CHM Web Presence

### Enhance web content to disseminate information

- **Information Architecture:**  
Structure of web navigation (menus, header, footer, search) to provide access to various website sections
- **User Experience:**  
Web content must be attractive, easy to find, up-to-date and relevant
- **Usability Testing:**  
Prepare test scenarios and involve users in testing the website
- **Requires a permanent effort**

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 3 - National CHM Web Presence

### Enhance web content to disseminate information

- **Disseminate biodiversity-related information**
  - Biodiversity in the country
  - NBSAPs & national reports
  - Other national biodiversity-related documents
  - Information by programme areas relevant to the country
- **Support NBSAP implementation**
  - National targets and indicators
  - Build an inventory of projects/initiatives
  - Links to expertise (experts, centres of excellence)
- **Facilitate Scientific & technical cooperation**
  - Meet national actors and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation
  - Link to all cooperation agencies in the country (UN, EU, Bilateral Cooperation, NGOs, ...)
  - Promote transfer of technology

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 3 - National CHM Web Presence

### Some example of national CHM

- **Canada**
  - <http://www.biodivcanada.ca>
  - Good federal structure
- **Europe - BISE**
  - <http://biodiversity.europa.eu>
  - Good information architecture
- **Switzerland**
  - <http://ch.chm-cbd.net>
  - Good repository
- **Colombia**
  - <http://www.humboldt.org.co/chmcolombia>
  - Used by expert community
- **Costa Rica - Inbio**
  - <http://www.inbio.ac.cr>
  - Good look & feel and resources

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 3 - National CHM Web Presence

### Join the CHM Network

- **Notification 2008-066**  
[www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-066-chm-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-066-chm-en.pdf)
- **Show CHM Logo**
- **Common domain chm-cbd.net**
  - National URL can be maintained
  - To strengthen CHM networking
  - Each country/partner is encouraged to join cc.chm-cbd.net (where cc is the country code)
- **How to join the domain**
  1. Configure the web server to accept the URL
  2. Give URL & IP address to Secretariat
  3. The Secretariat will activate the URL in their Domain Name System (DNS)



## ***Level 4 - Fully-Developed Nat. CHM Web Site***

**Encourage sharing of expertise to support other national CHM**

- **But do not neglect your own National CHM**
  - Make sure information is kept up-to-date
  - Ensure sustainability
  - Be ready to adapt to new situations
- **Support other National CHM**
  - in the same region / speaking the same language
  - Build contacts
  - Share expertise & data
  - Prepare training and organize workshops



## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Level 5 - Advanced National CHM

### Establish exchange mechanisms with other networks

- **Define Common Formats / Classifications**
  - Basis for data exchange & aggregation
  - Important to take the time to define good common interfaces
- **Interoperability**
  - Automated information exchange between computer systems
  - Various technologies based on standards (REST, RSS/Atom, Open Data Protocol, ...)
  - Requires some IT expertise
- **Examples**
  - European Portal Toolkit (RSS/RDF News & Events)
  - InforMEA using Open Data Protocol [www.informea.org](http://www.informea.org)
  - GFIS RSS formats (News, Events, Publications) [www.gfis.net](http://www.gfis.net)

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



1. ***Adopts the mission, goals & objectives for the period 2011-2020***
2. ***Encourages Parties to:***
  - a) Continue to establish national CHM (Goal 2)
  - b) Contribute to cooperation initiatives for the CHM
  - c) Include support for the CHM when requesting GEF Funding for NBSAPs
3. ***Encourages Partners to contribute to the CHM network (Goal 3)***
4. ***Recommends that the GEF & CBD Secretariats jointly facilitate funding for the CHM***
5. ***Requests the ES to:***
  - a) Further develop the central CHM information services (Goal 1)
  - b) Prepare a CHM work programme with the CHM IAC & interested Parties
  - c) Explore ways to promote free and open access to conservation data
  - d) Further improve the CBD website in all UN languages

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



# CHM Work Programme

- **Process**

- Elements prepared for consideration by the CHM-IAC
- Also included as a document for this workshop  
*UNEP/CBD/CHM/CBW/2011/SA/2*
- Collecting inputs & feedback (CHM-IAC, Parties, CBD Staff)
- Proposal to be submitted to WGRI 4 (May 2012)  
*Proposed Programme of Work on the Clearing-House Mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*
- WGRI 4 Recommendation for adoption at COP 11

- **Content**

- Structured around the CHM mission, goals & objectives
- 4 sections under each objectives:
  - Recommended activities
  - Potential indicators
  - Rationale
  - Requirements & sustainability
- See pages 9-12 on National CHMs

## Content

Overview

Guidance

Work Programme

Final Comments



## Final Comments

- **Key points for developing a National CHM**
  - No 1-size-fit-all approach, but similar situations
  - Integrate the CHM in the national strategy
  - Get funding from GEF allocation for NBSAPs
- **Focus on effectiveness & sustainability**
  - Involve users and collect feedback
  - Plan the right service(s) with available resources
- **SCBD will do what it can to strengthen the National CHM**
  - by providing technical assistance & guidance
  - by promoting the CHM network
- **Don't hesitate to contact us:**
  - Official: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)
  - Technical: [chm@cbd.int](mailto:chm@cbd.int)
- **Questions, comments or suggestions?**

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**Thank you**



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