



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM AND EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM
SECOND JOINT REGIONAL MEETING FOR
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
Tallinn, 13-15 December 2005

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. The clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity was established pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.
2. The European community clearing-house mechanism (EC CHM) was established pursuant to the implementation of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy and in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. Within its programme of work, the European Community clearing-house mechanism seeks to provide information and to highlight capacity-building needs at the Community level to address biodiversity-related critical issues such as the protection of ecosystems/habitats and species, including migratory birds, and sustainable use of biological resources, among others. The European Community clearing-house mechanism also participates in collaborative activities among national clearing-house mechanisms in Europe and seeks to promote coordination of data accessibility and use of clearing-house technologies.
4. In paragraph 4 of its decision VII/23, the Conference of the Parties invited developed country Parties to assist developing countries Parties, through the clearing-house mechanism, in their efforts to implement and use new information technologies, including the establishment of websites.
5. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 7 (b) of decision VII/23 also requested the Executive Secretary to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional workshops as a catalysing mechanism to allow for the interaction of international thematic focal points with the national focal points to further enhance the scientific and technical cooperation goal of the clearing-house mechanism and to build capacities at the national level with regard to use of and access to new information technologies.

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6. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary and the European Environment Agency (EEA), with the generous support of the European Commission, organized this meeting to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to become acquainted with new information and web-based technologies, namely the second version of the European Commission clearing-house mechanism toolkit. The meeting also offers Parties the opportunity to express their needs and expectations with regard to efforts by the two clearing-house mechanisms to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, particularly with regard to the 2010 target, the transfer of technology, the communication, education and current awareness programme and other programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention.

7. The organization of the meeting is also a response to the recommendation of the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention made at its meetings held on 13 and 17 February 2004 and 6 February 2005, which requests the Executive Secretary to focus on the use of the clearing-house mechanism to promote technical and scientific cooperation, particularly within the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including the 2010 target, technology transfer, communication education and public awareness and other programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention.

8. The meeting also will consider issues relevant to the operation of the two clearing-house mechanisms in the Central and Eastern Europe region.

Participants

9. All Parties to the Convention in the Central and Eastern Europe region, as well as all countries who participated as member or observer to the Clearing-House Mechanism project of the European Community Steering Committee, were invited to nominate one expert qualified in the fields of management of clearing-house mechanism issues, information-sharing systems, biodiversity information networks and database-management, and/or experience with the clearing-house mechanism.

10. Nominations were requested from the national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity on 10 November 2005.

11. In order to further assist the deliberations, Parties, Governments and relevant organizations were also been requested to submit their views and needs with regard to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the European Community, as well as any other relevant information they may wish to convey prior to the meeting.

12. In addition to these participants, representatives of the following organizations active in clearing-house mechanism issues have also been invited to participate as observers:

(a) The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), the Joint Secretariat (UNEP Regional Office for Europe and Council of Europe) for PEBLDS (Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the European Network for Biodiversity Information (ENBI);

(b) BirdLife International, BioNet International, Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), Global Invasive Species Information Network, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), and Species 2000;

(c) Donor organizations, particularly from those Governments that have indicated their interest in funding capacity-building activities to enable the active participation of developing countries in pilot projects promoted by the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) The Chair and members of the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism.

Documents

13. A list of documents for the meeting is attached as annex I below.

Expected outcome of the meeting

14. It is expected that the meeting will provide countries with an understanding of new information and web-based technologies and facilitate a better definition of the needs of countries of the region with regard to the further development of the clearing-house mechanisms of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Community. It is also expected that new initiatives will emphasize participation between the two clearing-house mechanisms, particularly within the context of the 2010 target and technology transfer in the Central and Eastern Europe region.

15. The recommendations of the meeting will be communicated to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2005.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

16. The meeting will be held in Tallinn, Estonia. It will be opened by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, or his representative, and the Executive Director of the clearing-house mechanism of the European Community, at 9 a.m. on 13 December 2005.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

17. The meeting will be invited to elect its Chair and Rapporteur from among its members. Proposals will be made from the floor.

2.2. Adoption of agenda

18. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CHM/CEE.Reg/2/1).

2.3. Organization of work

19. The proposed programme of work for the meeting is contained in annex II below.

20. Participants will be invited to discuss the issues relevant to the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation as reflected in decision VII/23 of the Conference of the Parties, recommendations of the eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and recommendations of the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the work programme of the clearing-house mechanism of the European Community, as well as issues pertaining to regional needs assessment in relation to use and future development of the two clearing-house mechanisms. To facilitate these discussions, it is proposed that these issues be clustered under two headings:

(a) Discussion on joint initiatives between the two clearing-house mechanisms in support of technical and scientific cooperation, particularly the 2010 target, technology transfer, communication, education and public awareness and the other programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention;

- (b) Implementation of joint initiatives and projects at the national and regional levels.

21. Each of these headings will encompass various relevant issues. Following an introduction to the topic, participants will be invited to discuss relevant issues, with a view to making recommendations relevant to the objectives of the meeting.

ITEM 3. USE OF NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING THE EUNIS DATABASE AND THE SECOND VERSION OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM TOOLKIT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

22. Under this item, participants will be offered a technical introduction to new information and web-based technologies, including the European Community clearing-house mechanism portal toolkit.

23. Activities will include hands-on technical training on the portal toolkit and instruction on the development and implementation of web-based systems in support of the Convention and its programme areas and cross-cutting issues.

24. Following the technical training, the Government of Estonia, and other Parties, will be invited to present new developments in their clearing-house mechanisms with a view to fostering synergies and collaborative initiatives.

ITEM 4. DISCUSSION ON JOINT INITIATIVES BETWEEN THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM IN SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY THE 2010 TARGET, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, COOMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE OTHER PROGRAMME AREAS AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES OF THE CONVENTION

25. The Secretariat and the European Community clearing-house mechanism will make short presentations on issues relevant to this item, based decision VII/23 of the Conference of the Parties and the programme of work of the European Community clearing-house mechanism. Observers to the meeting will also be invited to make brief presentations on their potential role in promoting cooperation among global information networks and mechanisms and regional and global initiatives. Accordingly, it is proposed that this item of the agenda covers the following elements:

- (a) Joint initiatives to enhance national capacity with regard to achievement of the 2010 target;
- (b) Joint initiatives with regard to decision VII/29, on transfer of technology and technology cooperation;
- (c) Joint initiatives with regard to decision VII/24, on education and public awareness;
- (d) Other joint initiatives in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention;
- (e) Use of new information technologies, including the EUNIS database and the second version of the clearing-house mechanism toolkit of the European Community;

26. These issues will be considered in the light of decision VII/23 of the Conference of the Parties, the programme of work of the European Community clearing-house mechanism and the minutes of the

meetings of the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention, held on 13, 17 February 2004 and 6 February 2005.

ITEM 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

27. In considering this item, participants will be invited to consider the regional needs to implement effectively recommendations related joint initiatives at the national and regional levels. Participants may also wish to consider joint workplans among national clearing-house mechanisms at the regional level to implement effectively activities in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention.

28. Possible group discussions that could be held under this item with a view to determining options for technical and scientific collaboration include:

- (a) Issues related to obstacles and lack of capacity;
- (b) Existing initiatives and potential for collaboration;
- (c) Planning for new joint activities and projects.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

29. Participants will be invited to formulate general conclusions and recommendations on the issues considered at this meeting.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

30. Participants will consider and adopt the report of the meeting, on the basis of the draft report of the meeting and draft recommendations to be presented by the Rapporteur.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

31. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on 15 December 2005.

Annex I

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM SECOND JOINT REGIONAL MEETING FOR CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPE**

PLEASE NOTE:

**For reasons of economy, documents will be available at the meeting in a limited number.
Participants are requested to bring their copies of the documents to the meeting.**

Working documents

UNEP/CBD/CHM/CEE.Reg/2/1

Provisional agenda

UNEP/CBD/CHM/CEE.Reg/2/1/Add.1

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Background documents

Decision VII/23 of the Conference of the Parties

Minutes of the meetings of the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity, 13 and 17 February 2004 and 6 February 2005.

Annex II

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM OF
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE CLEARING-HOUSE
MECHANISM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY JOINT REGIONAL MEETING FOR
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

<i>13 December 2005</i>	
9 a.m.	Item 1: Opening of the meeting
9.15 - 9.30 a.m.	Item 2: Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work.
9.0-10.30 a.m.	Item 3. Use of new information technologies, including the EUNIS database and the second version of the EC clearing-house mechanism portal toolkit
10.30-11 a.m.	Break
11 a.m. –1 p.m.	Hands-on technical workshop on the second version of the EC clearing-house mechanism portal toolkit (<i>continued</i>)
1–2 p.m.	Lunch
2 – 3.30 p.m.	Hands-on technical workshop on the second version of the EC clearing-house mechanism portal toolkit (<i>continued</i>)
3.30-4 p.m.	Break
4-5 p.m.	Hands-on technical workshop on the second version of the EC clearing-house mechanism portal toolkit (<i>continued</i>)
<i>14 December 2005</i>	
9-11 a.m.	Item 3. <i>Continued</i> Official launch of the second version of the EC clearing-house mechanism portal toolkit and presentation by the Government of Estonia, and other Parties, on developments pertaining to the clearing-house mechanism
11-11.30 a.m.	Break
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Item 4. Discussion on joint initiatives between the Convention on Biological Diversity clearing-house mechanism and the European Community clearing-house mechanism in support of technical and scientific cooperation, particularly the 2010 target, technology transfer, communication, education and public awareness and the other programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention
1–2 p.m.	Lunch
2– 3.30 p.m.	Item 4. Presentations and discussion.
3.30 – 4 p.m.	Break
4– 5 p.m.-	Item 4. Discussion
<i>14 December 2005</i>	
9– 10.30 a.m.	Discussion under agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>)
10.30-11 a.m.	Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 4. Discussion
1– 2 p.m.	Lunch

2–3.30 p.m.	Item 5. Implementation of joint initiatives and projects at the national and regional levels
3.30 – 4 p.m.	Break
4– 5 p.m.	Item 5. Discussion
<i>15 December 2005</i>	
9 – 10.30 a.m.	Discussion under agenda item 5 (<i>continued</i>)
10.30-11 a.m.	Break
11a.m.–1 p.m..	Item 6. Conclusions and recommendations (<i>continued</i>)
1 – 2 p.m.	Lunch
2 – 3.30 p.m.	Item 5. Conclusions and recommendations (<i>continued</i>)
3.30 – 4 p.m.	Break
4 – 5 p.m.	Item 7. Adoption of the report
5 p.m.	Item 8. Closure of the meeting
