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REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AND
EASTERN EUROPE AND WESTERN ASIA
ON THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM
Belgrade, 4-8 April 2016

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In paragraph 2 (a) of decision X/15 on the clearing-house mechanism (CHM), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity encouraged Parties to continue to take the necessary steps to establish, strengthen and ensure the sustainability of national clearing-house mechanisms, in order for them to provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and thus achieve CHM goal 2 as defined in the annex to that decision.
2. In decision XI/2, paragraph 11, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31), which contains recommended activities to achieve this goal. In paragraph 11 (b) of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties agreed to strengthen communication with, and build the capacity of, national focal points (NFPs) for the clearing-house mechanism.
3. Furthermore, in decision XII/2 B, paragraph 15, the Conference of the Parties strongly encouraged Parties to accelerate the establishment and development of their national clearing-house mechanisms where they had not done so, and, in paragraph 16 of the same decision, invited Parties and partners to provide support to developing country Parties that were developing their national clearing-house mechanisms.
4. Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the generous support of the Governments of Japan and Serbia, organized a regional workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Western Asia on the clearing-house mechanism. This workshop was held in Belgrade from 4 to 8 April 2016 as announced in notification 2016-011 (Ref. No. SCBD/TSI/RS/ODM/SM/85337) issued on 20 January 2016.¹ This workshop was intended for developing countries, but other countries in the region were invited to attend provided that they covered their own costs.
5. The overall objective of the workshop was to build capacity and provide guidance on how to establish and sustain effective national clearing-house mechanisms, in line with decision X/15 and in support of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

¹ See document www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2016/ntf-2016-011-chm-ws-en.pdf at www.cbd.int/notifications.

6. Governments were invited to nominate one representative to participate in this workshop. The nominee had to meet the following criteria:

- (a) Involvement in the planning and development of the national clearing-house mechanism in his/her country, as expected from the CHM national focal point;
- (b) Familiarity with the national biodiversity strategy and action plan;
- (c) Ability to present the current situation of the national clearing-house mechanism as well as any existing plan to develop it;
- (d) Occupying a position enabling him/her to apply the knowledge and capacity gained during the workshop for further developing the national clearing-house mechanism.

7. The workshop was attended by representatives of 11 countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. Additional information is provided in the following annexes:

- (a) Annex I: List of participants;
- (b) Annex II: Overview of the workshop organization;
- (c) Annex III: Status of national clearing-house mechanisms in participating countries;
- (d) Annex IV: Results of the workshop assessment questionnaire.

8. The workshop documentation, including presentations and other information provided by participating countries, is available online at www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=chmws-2016-02.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKSHOP

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

9. Mr. Filip Radovic, Director of the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, formally opened the workshop on Monday, 4 April 2016. He welcomed all participants and thanked the CBD Secretariat for convening this capacity-building workshop. He briefly summarized the history of the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, and highlighted some Serbian biodiversity-related activities and achievements.

10. The statement from the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, was presented by Mr. Olivier de Munck, CHM Programme Officer at the CBD Secretariat.² The Executive Secretary first thanked the Government of Serbia for hosting the workshop and organizing the necessary arrangements. He also thanked the Government of Japan for its generous financial support which had allowed the Secretariat to convene this regional capacity-building workshop.

11. Mr. Slavisa Popovic, CHM national focal point of Serbia, then welcomed all participants. He informed them that a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) would come on Tuesday afternoon to share the experience of UNEP in the region. He also told them that they had all been invited by the host country to a typical Serbian restaurant on Tuesday evening, as well as to a field

² The statement is available at www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2016/sp-2016-04-04-chm-workshop-rs-en.pdf.

trip on Wednesday to visit the Zasavica protected area. Information on this protected area, located about 100 km from Belgrade, is available at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zasavica_\(bog\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zasavica_(bog)).

ITEM 2. OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

12. This session started with an introductory presentation by Mr. de Munck on the objectives and programme of the workshop.³ The overall objective was to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to establish and sustain effective national clearing-house mechanisms in support of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

13. Participants were presented their learning objectives. These objectives were to gain a deeper understanding of the clearing-house mechanism, its supporting role and its potential benefits for the country, to be aware of the experiences of other participating countries, and to acquire practical knowledge of the “Bioland” tool, which could facilitate the establishment of a national clearing-house mechanism.

14. The learning objectives of the CBD Secretariat were also presented. These objectives were to learn about the situation in the region, such as the experiences and challenges of participating countries, and to gain a better understand of their needs for further developing their national clearing-house mechanism. Another objective of the CBD Secretariat was to collect feedback on the Bioland tool.

15. In terms of increased capacity after this workshop, each participating country should be able to adopt a sound approach to further develop its national clearing-house mechanism, based on a strategic vision and a realistic road map for its implementation. They would also know which kind of support could be expected from the CBD Secretariat to achieve this goal.

ITEM 3. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

16. This agenda item consisted of two presentations by the CBD Secretariat. The first provided general background on the clearing-house mechanism.⁴ It referred to paragraph 22 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which envisioned a biodiversity knowledge network with national clearing-house mechanisms linked to the central clearing-house mechanism of the CBD Secretariat. It described the supporting role of the clearing-house mechanism as an information exchange platform contributing to planning, implementation and reporting. It stressed that the strategic vision of the national clearing-house mechanism should be defined at the level of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

17. After this presentation, participants were kindly invited to stand together for a group photo before the morning coffee break.

18. The second presentation⁵ described the proposed work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31). Special attention was devoted to CHM goal 2 (see annex to decision X/15), which stated that national clearing-house mechanisms should provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Details were provided on the activities which should be carried out in order to meet the objectives under this goal. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion to answer any questions.

³ See www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/chm/chmws-2016-02/other/chmws-2016-02-item-02-workshop-objectives-en.pdf.

⁴ See www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/chm/chmws-2016-02/other/chmws-2016-02-item-03-chm-background-en.pdf.

⁵ See www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/chm/chmws-2016-02/other/chmws-2016-02-item-03-chm-work-programme-en.pdf.

ITEM 4. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EXPERIENCES

19. Under this item, participating countries were given the opportunity to share their experiences on the development and status of their national clearing-house mechanisms and/or related initiatives. The suggested format for the national presentations included three areas: an overview of the current situation; the strategic vision for the future; and the type of cooperation or support that would be beneficial. The following participants made a presentation:

- (a) Ms. Silvamina Alshabani presented the experience of Albania;
- (b) Ms. Roza Margaryan presented the experience of Armenia;
- (c) Ms. Arzu Samadova presented the experience of Azerbaijan;
- (d) Ms. Andrea Bevanda-Hrvo presented the experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- (e) Ms. Nadya Mihaylova presented the experience of Bulgaria;
- (f) Ms. Ainur Shalakhanova presented the experience of Kazakhstan;
- (g) Ms. Bermet Omurova presented the experience of Kyrgyzstan;
- (h) Mr. Slavisa Popovic presented the experience of Serbia;
- (i) Ms. Tatiana Novikova presented the experience of Tajikistan;
- (j) Mr. Ata Annamamedov presented the experience of Turkmenistan;
- (k) Ms. Olena Legka presented the experience of Ukraine.

20. After each presentation, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions. These national presentations are available online at www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=chmws-2016-02&tab=2, and annex III contains a summary of the status of the national clearing-house mechanism of each country.

21. As for regional experiences, Mr. Pier-Carlo Sandei (piercarlo.sandei@unvienna.org), Programme Officer at the Vienna Office of UNEP, made a presentation on UNEP biodiversity projects and activities in the Western Balkan region.⁶ He explained that, thanks to the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), UNEP was assisting Western Balkan countries in the implementation of several projects focusing on biodiversity, sustainable land management, and mitigation/adaptation to climate change. Among other things, he showed that, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the projects to support the revision of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans included a component to develop national clearing-house mechanisms in these countries. These national clearing-house mechanisms are available at <http://www.bih-chm-cbd.ba> and <http://biodiverzitet-chm.mk>.

22. After his presentation, Mr. Sandei showed a 30-minute movie, entitled “Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Land of Diversity”, available at <https://copy.com/Pjc12LawZQF8LJ81>. He explained that this movie was the outcome of a successful collaboration initiative between UNEP and the Al Jazeera television company.

⁶ See www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/chm/chmws-2016-02/other/chmws-2016-02-item-04-unep-en.pdf.

ITEM 5. GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISMS

23. The guidance presented for developing national clearing-house mechanisms followed a step-by-step road map highlighting the major actions that should be undertaken to establish and further develop a national clearing-house mechanism, as summarized in the table below.⁷

<i>Level</i>	<i>Situation</i>	<i>Action</i>
0	No CHM national focal point	Convince Party to nominate CHM national focal point
1	CHM national focal point not equipped	Find solutions to provide basic infrastructure and communication facilities
2	No national CHM website	Get tools and support to establish web presence
3	National CHM web presence	Enhance web content Improve user experience
4	Good national CHM website	Expand information services Establish interoperability mechanisms Support other national CHMs

24. In terms of substantive content, the guidance covered the following topics of particular relevance to the development of effective national clearing-house mechanisms:

(a) National coordination: to understand the benefits of coordinating activities related to the development of a national clearing-house mechanism with a view to ensuring effectiveness and sustainability;

(b) Strategic management of web content: to understand the impact of content management on the effectiveness of a website, and to provide general guidelines on how to strategically plan and manage web content;

(c) Information services: to describe the typical information services that a national clearing-house mechanism can provide to support the NBSAP implementation process;

(d) Technical aspects: to give a general overview of existing technology relevant to the establishment or further development of national clearing-house mechanisms.

ITEM 6. TRAINING SESSION

25. The main purpose of this session was to train participants in the use of the new Bioland tool to assist Parties in the establishment of their national clearing-house mechanisms. This tool is a basic generic national clearing-house mechanism that can be made available online to interested Parties for them to easily share key information related to their NBSAP and its implementation. The demonstration version of this tool is available at <https://demo.chm-cbd.net>.

⁷ See www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/chm/chmws-2016-02/other/chmws-2016-02-item-05-chm-guidance-en.pdf.

26. Mr. Olivier de Munck started the training session by making a presentation to provide some background on the Bioland tool.⁸ He explained that, prior to the training session, eleven basic national CHM training websites had been preconfigured, one for each participating country. During the hands-on training session, participants were shown how to access the tool through their user account, and how to populate their national CHM training websites in their own languages (e.g. Albanian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Serbian, Tajik, Turkmen and Ukrainian) as well as in English and/or Russian, as indicated in the table below.

<i>Country</i>	<i>National CHM training site</i>	<i>Site languages</i>
Albania	https://new-al.chm-cbd.net	Albanian, English
Armenia	https://new-am.chm-cbd.net	Armenian, English
Azerbaijan	https://new-az.chm-cbd.net	Azerbaijani, English
Bosnia and Herzegovina	https://new-ba.chm-cbd.net	Bosnian, English
Bulgaria	https://new-bg.chm-cbd.net	Bulgarian, English
Kazakhstan	https://new-kz.chm-cbd.net	Kazakh, English, Russian
Kyrgyzstan	https://new-kg.chm-cbd.net	Kyrgyz, English, Russian
Serbia	https://new-rs.chm-cbd.net	Serbian, English
Tajikistan	https://new-tj.chm-cbd.net	Tajik, English, Russian
Turkmenistan	https://new-tm.chm-cbd.net	Turkmen, English, Russian
Ukraine	https://new-ua.chm-cbd.net	Ukrainian, English

27. As part of the training session, Ms. Sandra Meehan presented the latest version of the CBD online reporting tool.⁹ She indicated the existence of two systems: the official system, available at <https://chm.cbd.int>, in which only nationally approved information could be entered, and the test system, available at <https://dev-chm.cbd.int>, which could be used for learning purposes. She explained the distinction between the two user roles: the National Publishing Authority (NPA), responsible for approving what was officially published, and the National Authorized User (NAU), who could prepare drafts for review and approval by the NPA. She also referred to the recent CBD notification¹⁰ announcing that CBD national focal points could directly assign these roles to their national users through the online system.

28. Participants were invited to comment and provide feedback on these tools made available by the CBD Secretariat. While the overall immediate reaction was quite positive, many participants indicated that they would prefer to further familiarize themselves with these new tools before providing more feedback.

⁸ See www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/chm/chmws-2016-02/other/chmws-2016-02-item-06-training-bioland-en.pdf.

⁹ See <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/chm/chmws-2016-02/other/chmws-2016-02-item-06-training-online-reporting-en.pdf>.

¹⁰ Notification 2016-038 (Ref. no. SCBD/SAM/TSI/RH/LC/VA/85519), issued on 21 March 2016.

ITEM 7. STRATEGIC VISION AND ROAD MAP FOR NATIONAL CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISMS

29. Under this item, participants were requested to apply the guidance received so far to prepare a strategic vision and road map for developing their national clearing-house mechanisms. During this exercise, Mr. Olivier de Munck and Ms. Sandra Meehan provided guidance and assistance as needed.

30. The result of the work was captured in the country information forms which are available online at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=chmws-2016-02&tab=2>. Participants were encouraged to maintain this information up-to-date after the workshop by providing revised versions whenever applicable.

ITEM 8. PENDING MATTERS

31. Under this item, participants were invited to raise any pending matter for further discussion or ask any question that would require clarification.

32. Mr. Slavisa Popovic, CHM national focal point of Serbia, shared with other participants his idea of a regional clearing-house mechanism for Balkan countries with a view to facilitating access to biodiversity-related information of common interest to these countries. He presented an initial menu structure for a corresponding website and invited participants from the Balkan region to further discuss this matter with him. He also invited participants from the Caucasus region to consider the benefits of a similar initiative for them. On this issue, Mr. Olivier de Munck indicated that the CBD Secretariat could assist in setting up such a regional clearing-house mechanism, provided that interested countries agreed on how to provide and manage its content.

33. After this discussion, a tour de table was made but no other matter was raised. This gave some extra time to the participants, who could further familiarize themselves with the Bioland tool by providing more content and translations.

ITEM 9. SYNTHESIS AND REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

34. Under this item, Mr. Olivier de Munck briefly recapped what had been done during the workshop. He indicated that participants should not hesitate to contact him or his colleague Ms. Sandra Meehan for further guidance after the workshop. He encouraged participants to remain in contact with each other for further collaboration or exchange of experiences. He also mentioned that the draft report of the workshop would be sent to all participants for their comments or suggestions.

35. Prior to the closure of the workshop, participants were kindly requested to complete a feedback form. The compiled feedback is available in annex IV and would be taken into account to improve the planning and organization of subsequent workshops.

ITEM 10. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

36. The CBD Secretariat and the participants thanked the Government of Serbia for hosting the workshop. The organizers congratulated the participants for their active participation and motivation, and expressed their satisfaction at seeing that the workshop had enabled the exchange of experiences and increased the capacity to develop national clearing-house mechanisms. Following further exchange of thanks, the workshop was officially declared closed at 12.30 p.m. on 8 April 2016 by the representative of Serbia.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Participant and contact	Organization and address
Albania	
1. Ms. Silvamina Alshabani Head, Protected Areas Unit <i>Tel.:</i> +355 69 24 90 833 <i>Email:</i> silvamina.alshabani@moe.gov.al	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Directorate/Protected Areas Unit Ministry of the Environment Biv. "Zhan D'Ark", nr. 23 Tirana, Albania
Armenia	
2. Ms. Roza Margaryan Leading Specialist of Biodiversity Policy Division <i>Tel.:</i> +374 11 81 85 13 <i>Email:</i> interdpt@mnp.am marg_roz@yahoo.com	Environmental Protection Policy Department Ministry of Nature Protection Government Bldg. 3, Republic Square Yerevan, Armenia
Azerbaijan	
3. Ms. Arzu Samadova Lead Advisor <i>Tel.:</i> +994 50 644 22 65 <i>Email:</i> samadovaarzu@gmail.com emin.garabaghli@gmail.com	Department Protection of Biodiversity and Development Specially Protected Nature Areas B. Aghayev Str. 100-A Baku, Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
4. Ms. Andrea Bevanda-Hrvo Program Assistant to the CBD NFP <i>Tel.:</i> +387 33 726 720 <i>Email:</i> andrea.bevandahrvo@gmail.com	The Environment Sector Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism Marka Marulica 2 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria	
5. Ms. Nadya Mihaylova <i>CHM NFP</i> Senior Expert <i>Tel.:</i> +359 2 940 6611 <i>Email:</i> nmihaylova@moew.government.bg	Protected Areas Division National Nature Protection Service Directorate Ministry of Environment and Water 22, Knyaginya Maria Luiza Blvd. 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Participant and contact	Organization and address
Kazakhstan	
<p>6. Ms. Ainur Shalakhanova Expert of Action Plan Costing <i>Tel.:</i> +7 7172 76 67 84 <i>Email:</i> shalakhanova @ gmail.com</p>	<p>Biodiversity Project of Forestry and Wildlife Committee Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan 12/1 Kunaev Street Astana, Kazakhstan</p>
Kyrgyzstan	
<p>7. Ms. Bermet Omurova National CHM Manager Chief Specialist <i>Tel.:</i> +996 312 35 31 04 <i>Email:</i> bemamo @ mail.ru envforest @ elcat.kg</p>	<p>Department of International Cooperation The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic 228 Toktogul St Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</p>
Serbia	
<p>8. Mr. Slavisa Popovic <i>CHM NFP</i> Advisor for Biodiversity, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing <i>Tel.:</i> +381 11 2861 080 +381 64 6343 101 <i>Email:</i> slavisa.popovic @ sepa.gov.rs</p>	<p>Indicators and Reporting Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) 27A Ruze Jovanovica Str. Belgrade, Serbia</p>
<p>9. Ms. Jelena Ducic <i>CBD NFP</i> Adviser for Natura 2000 <i>Tel.:</i> +381 11 2158 793 <i>Email:</i> jelena.ducic @ eko.minpolj.gov.rs</p>	<p>Department for Protection of Nature and Biodiversity Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection 1, Omladinskih Brigade Str. 11070 New Belgrade, Serbia</p>
<p>10. Ms. Snezana Prokic <i>SBSTTA & Protected Areas NFP</i> Head of Department for Ecological Networks <i>Tel.:</i> +381 11 3122 144 <i>Email:</i> snezana.prokic @ eko.minpolj.gov.rs</p>	<p>Department for Ecological Networks Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection 1, Omladinskih Brigade Str. 11070 New Belgrade, Serbia</p>
<p>11. Ms. Lana Javanovic Intern <i>Tel.:</i> +381 63 7749 800 <i>Email:</i> lana.janovic.lj @ gmail.com</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) 27A Ruze Jovanovica Str. Belgrade, Serbia</p>

Participant and contact	Organization and address
Tajikistan	
<p>12. Ms. Tatiana Novikova <i>CHM NFP</i> Deputy Head <i>Tel.:</i> +992 91 901 08 36 <i>Email:</i> tatiana_novikova @ mail.ru biodiv @ biodiv.tojikiston.com</p>	<p>National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center 47 Shevchenko Street 734025 Dushanbe, Tajikistan</p>
Turkmenistan	
<p>13. Mr. Ata Annamamedov ICT/MIS Specialist and Web Developer <i>Tel.:</i> +99 312 94 01 02 <i>Email:</i> ata @ yakyn.com</p>	<p>NBSAP-2 Project Ministry of Nature Protection 92, Archabil Avenue 744000 Ashgabat, Turkmenistan</p>
Ukraine	
<p>14. Ms. Olena Legka Chief Specialist <i>Tel.:</i> +380 44 206 31 48 <i>Email:</i> olegka @ menr.gov.ua</p>	<p>Directorate of Natural Resources Protection Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Mytropolyta Vasylia Lypkivs'kogo str, 35 Kyiv 03035, Ukraine</p>
CBD Secretariat	
<p>15. Mr. Olivier de Munck Programme Officer, Clearing-House Mechanism <i>Tel.:</i> +1 514 287 7012 <i>Email:</i> olivier.demunck @ cbd.int</p>	<p>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800 Montreal QC H2Y 1N9, Canada</p>
<p>16. Ms. Sandra Meehan Programme Assistant, Clearing-House Mechanism <i>Tel.:</i> +1 514 287 7008 <i>Email:</i> sandra.meehan @ cbd.int</p>	<p>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800 Montreal QC H2Y 1N9, Canada</p>

*Annex II***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK****Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Western Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism**

Belgrade, Serbia, 4-8 April 2016



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.	1. Opening of the workshop 2. Objectives and programme of the workshop	5. Guidance for national clearing-house mechanisms	Field trip	7. Strategic vision and road map for national clearing-house mechanisms	8. Pending matters
11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3. Work programme of the clearing-house mechanism	6. Training session	Field trip	7. Strategic vision and road map for national clearing-house mechanisms	8. Pending matters
2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	4. National and regional experiences	6. Training session	Field trip	6. Training session	9. Synthesis and report of the workshop
4 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	4. National and regional experiences	4. National and regional experiences	Field trip	6. Training session	10. Closure of the workshop





Annex III





**NATIONAL CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISMS IN PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND WESTERN ASIA**


(Updated on 15 April 2016)

Note: This table summarizes the status of the national clearing-house mechanism websites of the 11 countries that were represented in the Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Western Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 4 to 8 April 2016.

	Country and website	CHM website	CHM NFP	Current situation	Potential for development
	Albania http://nfp-al.eionet.eu.int	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Albania is in the process of establishing a new national CHM website. - It was designed in the context of the GEF-funded project to revise the NBSAP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new national CHM website is planned to be active by the end of June 2016 and it will be hosted at the MoE website. - The financing issue is resolved for the design phase by the project. - The maintenance will be covered by the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Directorate in cooperation with the IT unit at the MoE. - A small budget for the national CHM to be kept alive will be planned at the medium term budget starting from 2017 (PBA).
	Armenia	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No national CHM website. - Existence of relevant legislative-regulatory framework. - Existence of corresponding institutional structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interested in Bioland tool.

	Country and website	CHM website	CHM NFP	Current situation	Potential for development
	Azerbaijan http://www.eco.gov.az	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry website acting as national CHM. - One person responsible for the Cartagena Protocol and CHM. - Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has developed website. But the “biodiversity” section should be developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to develop existing website.
	Bosnia and Herzegovina http://www.bih-chm-cbd.ba	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CHM for Bosnia and Herzegovina was established within the UNEP/GEF project. - CHM NFP has not been nominated yet. - CHM for BiH has not been regularly updated (not since 2015). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nomination of CHM NFP. - Regularly updating of the website.
	Bulgaria http://chm.moew.government.bg	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing content and links are not kept up to date. - No human resource to maintain the information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is necessary to convince the Minister about the importance of the CHM and its related activities.
	Kazakhstan http://fhc.kz	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The national CHM of Kazakhstan is the website of the Forestry and Wildlife Committee (FHC). - FHC is the main state agency responsible for biodiversity in Kazakhstan. - The FHC website is operating since 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For further development and improvement of national CHM we need guidance from international partners and exchange of experiences with other countries.

	Country and website	CHM website	CHM NFP	Current situation	Potential for development
	Kyrgyzstan	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No national CHM website. - Information on biodiversity is located on the website of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic. - Activities on the development of national CHM are being planned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a national CHM website.
	Serbia http://biodiverzitet-chm.rs/	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing web portal and CHM NFP. - Not full-time employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonization with neighbouring countries. - Development of regional initiative.
	Tajikistan	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The website of the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center (www.biodiv.tj) provides information on biodiversity and biosafety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officially inform the CBD Secretariat of the existence of the site as national CHM.
	Turkmenistan	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content plan approved, CHM website built. Working group organized and provided with technical facilities (every member received Samsung Galaxy Tab as mobile equipment for CHM website updates). Editorial policy accepted. Every member provided with system credentials (according to their role). Trainings are delivered. Have to solve some organizational questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depends on level of participating parties' involvement; almost not limited from technical point of view.

	Country and website	CHM website	CHM NFP	Current situation	Potential for development
	Ukraine http://menr.gov.ua	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No official national CHM website. - Issues connected to biodiversity are covered on the official website of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the website of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine. - Would require resources, training, and increased communication between stakeholders.

Annex IV

RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

This annex contains the results of the workshop assessment questionnaire, and is based on the 11 forms completed by participants.

Note: When the horizontal sum of the quantitative assessments is lower than 11, this means that at least one reply was missing.

1. What were your expectations before attending this workshop?	
-	I was expecting to see and work in practice on how to work and maintain a CHM web page and my expectation was fully reached.
-	To learn more about how to further develop CHM/develop knowledge and experience on further development and use of CHM.
-	To share experiences and learn from other countries.
-	Learn new features of the CHM.
-	To learn more for other CHM structures.
-	To know the experience of other countries' CHM.
-	To see how other countries and CBD Secretariat itself view and manage the CHM.
-	To know more about the CHM.
-	To get information about the experiences of other countries on establishment and development of the CHM.
-	My expectation was to learn more and have a better understanding of the CHM.
-	Before the workshop I did not think it would be useful because I am not an IT specialist. During the workshop I learned a lot which I will share with other colleagues. It was useful for my personal development.
-	New ideas/support.

2. Please evaluate the extent to which the workshop has met your expectations.				
1 Poor	2 Average	3 Good	4 Very Good	5 Excellent
			4	7
- The workshop was very good and my expectations were met.				

3. Please evaluate the usefulness of the sessions.						
		Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
2.	Objectives and programme				6	5

3. Please evaluate the usefulness of the sessions.						
		Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
3.	Work programme of the CHM				4	7
4.	National and regional experiences			2	8	1
5.	Guidance for national CHMs				5	6
6.	Training session			1	5	5
7.	Strategic vision and road map for national CHM			3	4	4
8.	Pending matters			2	6	2
9.	Synthesis and report of the workshop			2	4	5

4. What do you think was missing in terms of content or substance?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My expectations were fully met – nothing is missing. - All important issues were covered. It was concise, clear and understandable. - Everything was clear and sufficient. - I would like to add more practical issues.

5. What did you particularly like during this workshop?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The practical work on the website and the excellent explanations by the trainers. - The presentations provided by the CBD trainers; the guidance for CHM/practical exercises; the national experiences. - All meetings and training sessions. - The Secretariat provided a lot of useful guidance materials; the training sessions. - Easiness of experience sharing. - Wonderful team; very good presentations; the ability to learn more about the objectives of the CHM and how it works; creation of a Bioland profile for each participant to work with. - The organization of the workshop was perfect; special thanks to CBD specialists and Serbian colleagues. - Sharing of experiences; understandable presentations; good atmosphere; excellent field trip. - Initiatives; guidance.

6. What did you particularly dislike during this workshop?
- Everything was great.

7. Please evaluate the extent to which the workshop has helped you understand the role of the CHM, particularly in the context of the Strategic Plan and the NBSAP process.				
1 Poor	2 Average	3 Good	4 Very good	5 Excellent
		1	4	6

8. Please indicate at least one thing that has enhanced your ability to develop your national CHM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I understand how the system works, what is the relevant information needed and now I have a clearer idea of what I have to do on my national CHM page. - Practical exercise on CHM; content management for website. - Information from the presentations helped me to understand that our national CHM was done in the right way. - CHM website created for every country. - Now we have a deep understanding of what exactly is a CHM and how to develop it in the future. - Providing the Bioland tool; the meaning of a CHM and how to develop one.

9. Please evaluate the facilitation of the workshop sessions.				
1 Poor	2 Average	3 Good	4 Very Good	5 Excellent
		1	3	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop was very informative, I have learned the new tool which will help create the CHM. 				

10. Please evaluate the organization of the workshop (logistics, administration, etc.).				
1 Poor	2 Average	3 Good	4 Very Good	5 Excellent
		1	4	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything was excellent – thank you CBD Secretariat and Government of Serbia. 				

11. Please provide below any other comments or suggestions for improvement.

- Nothing to add, everything was great.
- I wish for sustainability and continuance of these workshops.
- More practice, some financial support.

12. Do you have any comments on or suggestions about this questionnaire?

- I think that it is all good and correct.
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