# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
  AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Fifth meeting
Montreal, 31 January – 4 February 2000
Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda**

## CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM'S STRATEGIC PLAN

### Note by the Executive Secretary

1.    The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 1999-2004.

2.    The main conclusions of the strategic plan are also presented in the note prepared by the Executive Secretary under item 3.2 of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/3), together with suggested recommendations that SBSTTA may wish to consider for submission to the Conference of the Parties.

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    *   Reissued for technical reasons.
    **    UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/1.                                      /...

## Clearing House Mechanism

Convention on Biological Diversity

# STRATEGIC PLAN 1999 - 2004

(with an overall strategic view out to 2009)

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## Mission and Vision

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) was established by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the Convention and its three objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity,
- the sustainable use of its components, and
- the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

The CHM will become the primary global cooperation and information network on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It will promote and support at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels:

- better, more cost-effective decision-making
  (for example for trans-boundary issues and topics such as migratory and alien species, and for situations where only readily available information can be considered);
- international cooperation and sharing of related technology, training, education, research, information and expertise;
- reduced duplication of related efforts; and therefore
- quicker, better and more cost-effective implementation of biodiversity-related initiatives, and of the Convention overall.

Working in collaboration with related global initiatives, the CHM will also link and synergize their contributions, and help consolidate and influence the development of the biodiversity component of an emerging global information infrastructure covering many other subject areas as well.

Embracing person-to-person, paper-based and electronic components, it will operate as a decentralized, open and transparent, distributed network of mutually supportive networks. It will take a proactive and collaborative approach to identifying, prioritizing and meeting the needs of its wide range of users, and shall endeavor to expand its activities and services over time to meet the broad objectives of the Convention.

# Goals and Strategies

The CHM has three goals, all of which are necessary for achieving the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

- Cooperation — the promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation,
- Information Exchange — the development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity, and
- Network Development — the development of the CHM Focal Points and their partners.

The following is a condensed overview of these goals and the strategies that will be used to achieve them.

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**1. Cooperation. Promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation\*.**

    \* within and between countries, for the effective implementation of the Convention

The first goal involves use of the CHM for identifying, developing and promoting opportunities for collaboration. It focuses on six key areas of scientific, technical and technological cooperation:
- decision making tools and processes,
- training and capacity building,
- research,
- funding,
- access to and transfer of technology, and
- repatriation of information.

This goal will be achieved through the following three strategies.

- Track Best Practices, Needs and Priorities for Collaboration. For each of the six key areas of cooperation, track and share information on needs, priorities, strengths, best practices, lessons learned and trends, for implementing relevant Articles of the Convention, on an ongoing basis.

- Use Funding to Promote Country Involvement, Partnering and Progress in Priority Areas. In cooperation with GEF and other international funding partners, and on the basis of demonstrated user needs, establish criteria and funding pools for supporting progressive, national-based and regional-based projects in each key area of cooperation.

- Provide a Collaboration Promotion Mechanism for Institutions and Experts, and service and technology providers. Create a mechanism that institutions and experts, and service and technology providers can use to introduce themselves, and to identify areas of potential collaboration which they are interested in pursuing. Users would be able to search electronically (Web / CD ROM), or make requests (phone, fax etc.) according to various criteria, including geographical location, type of assistance (including each key areas of cooperation) and subject matter.

  The CHM Focal Points would act as "gatekeepers" to the information on their nodes, with full local access to content. The service and technology providers, institutions and experts would be responsible for keeping their own information up to date, and for conforming to guidelines.

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2. Information Exchange. Development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity.*

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\* within and between countries, in an open and decentralized manner, using conventional and electronic means of communication, for the effective implementation of the Convention

This goal involves:
- providing improved and integrated access to information sources that already exist,
- fostering the establishment and development of necessary information sources where they do not exist, and
- promoting the exchange of information, knowledge, experience and best practices.

It will be met primarily through the following four strategies.

- Provide Open, World-Wide Access to Existing Biodiversity Information. Engage National Focal Points in providing access through the CHM to existing information within their countries.

- Ensure Compatibility Through Standardization and Interoperability. Provide and achieve acceptance of tools, guidelines, protocols and standards for promoting the compatibility of network structures and processes.

- Track Information Needs, Priorities and Best Practices. Track and share national needs, priorities, best practices, lessons learned, and gaps in information and expertise on an ongoing basis.

- Prioritize and Promote Expansion in Content.  Determine priorities for growth and improvement in information content, based on user needs and strategic considerations; promote expansion accordingly.

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**3. Network Development.  Development of the CHM Focal Points and their partners.**

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This goal covers the development and ongoing support of the CHM's network of networks, to meet the growing needs of the CHM in a timely manner and with limited resources. While the priority is to support the growth of CHM Focal Points, the intention is to work through them to support their partners and networks as well.

It  will be met primarily through the following six strategies.

- Provide Start-Up Assistance and Ongoing Capacity Building.   Ensure that countries, regions, and subregions are assisted in setting up and developing their Focal Points, and in accessing ongoing capacity building support.

- Address Obstacles to Growth   Identify and overcome national, regional and international obstacles to the establishment and full development of CHM Focal Points.

- Maintain Local Ownership of Information.

- Rely on Partnerships, and Focus on Facilitation. Concentrate on facilitating, encouraging and promoting rather than implementing. Engage a wide range of biodiversity stakeholders, to pool resources and share work, including promotion of the CHM and its Call for Proposals.  Help with partners' capacity building through joint endeavors

- Concentrate on Value-Added  Continue to clarify, grow competence in, and gain widespread recognition for the value-added roles of each type of focal point.

- Promote Use of the CHM  Promote awareness, understanding, expansion and use of the CHM through communications and education activities.

- Develop Funding Strategies for all Focal Points. Ensure the long term development and operation of CHM Focal Points, by developing sound short- and long- term funding strategies for Focal Points at all levels.

## Evaluation

In order to guide and evaluate its progress, the CHM will rely on two primary evaluation mechanisms.  Starting in 1999, an independent review of the CHM shall be conducted every five years.  User surveys, which will form an integral part of each independent review, will also be carried out at least one additional time between each independent review.  For each measurable objective in this plan, measurement criteria, and baseline data (where available) are provided in Section 9.

## Funding

Ongoing investments will be required to develop and sustain the operations of the CHM's nodes at all levels.  It may be difficult to quantify the overall return on these investments.  However many biodiversity initiatives world-wide require the sorts of cooperation and information availability that is supported by the CHM, or could be implemented more cost-effectively though its use.  The proponents of these initiatives, who are potential 'users' of the CHM, should be considered as potential CHM funders as well.  Just as the Parties to the Convention must support the CHM as a necessary foundation for implementing the Convention, other actors world-wide must also come to support the CHM as a critical tool for implementing their own initiatives and achieving their own goals.

In Section 9 of this plan, funding objectives are defined and approaches are outlined for obtaining the necessary funding.

## Next Steps

This Strategic Plan outlines an ambitious number of objectives.  Key performance indicators for the coming three years include:
- the CHM's perceived contribution to effective decision making, and the overall contribution of the information exchanged;
- awareness and use of the CHM; and
- establishment of the CHM's Focal Points, and related capacity building.

During this period, priority should be given to:
- describing and communicating the role and value of the CHM;
- creating mechanisms of mutual support for its users;
- planning for its long-term sustainability, including financing considerations and establishing the permanent CHM focal point (i.e. Secretariat for the CHM); and
- monitoring and evaluating its activities.

# 1. Situational Analysis

## 1.1 Background

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) was established by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to "promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in biodiversity." Its legal mandate comes from Article 18 of the Convention, covering Technical and Scientific Cooperation, rather than Article 17 on Exchange of Information. This highlights that the CHM's role is beyond information exchange alone.

Articles 12 through 20 suggest that the CHM should support the following areas.

- scientific and research cooperation in such areas as
  - need for conservation and sustainable use
  - identification and monitoring
  - in-situ conservation
  - ex-situ conservation
  - the sustainable use of components of biodiversity
  - the use of incentive measures
  - impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts
  - access to genetic resources
  - training and capacity building
  - public education and awareness
  - access to and transfer of technology
  - exchange of information and expertise
  - technical and technological cooperation
  - repatriation of information
  - funding
  - general measures of the Convention, including the development of national policies, plans and programs

The Conference of the Parties (COP) has consistently called upon the CHM to support the work covered by other Articles of the Convention. In fact, an increasing number of COP decisions other than core decisions on the CHM have asked the CHM to support the implementation of Articles 6 to 26. These decisions are listed in the following table.

## COP's 'Non-Core' CHM Decisions Supporting Articles 6 to 26

| Decision | CBD Article supported (Article Number is provided in parenthesis) |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| II/4 | Access and Transfer of Technology (Art. 16 and 17) |
| II/6 | Financial Resources (Art. 20 and 17) |
| II/7 | National Strategies + Action Plans (Art. 6) and in situ conservation (Art. 8. and 17) |
| II/10 | Work Programme for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (Art 17) |
| II/14 | Cooperation among international conventions to exchange information (Art. 18.3) |
| II/17 | Disseminate information contained in National Reports (Art. 17) |
| III/9 | National Strategies + Action Plans (Art. 6) and in situ conservation (Art. 8. and 17) |
| III/10 | Identification, monitoring and (assessment) (Art. 7 and 17) |
| III/11 | Agro-biodiversity (Art 18.3, 17 and 13) |
| III/15 | Access to genetic resources (Art. 15 and 17) |
| III/17 | Intellectual Property Rights (Art. 8j and 17) |
| III/18 | Incentive Measures (Art. 11 and 17) |
| IV/1 | Taxonomy (Art. 17) |
| IV/4 | Inland waters (Art 18.3 and 17) |
| IV/5 | Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (Art. 17) |
| IV/7 | Forests (Art. 17) |
| IV/8 | Access and Benefit sharing (Art. 17) |
| IV/9 | Implementation of Article 8j and related provisions (Art. 17) |
| IV/10 | Incentive Measures (Art. 17) Public Education and Awareness (Art. 17) Impact Assessment (Art. 17) |
| IV/13 | SBSTTA Modus Operandi – Roster of Experts (Art. 17) |

The CHM, in three years of operation, has achieved considerable momentum.  A large,

searchable electronic network includes biodiversity-related sites and interconnects over 400 private, academic, national, governmental and international organizations. Four regional workshops have been held, 38 national websites have been generated and linked into the CHM and 137 countries have aligned themselves with the CHM by appointing national focal points for biodiversity information and activities.

At the same time, significant opportunities are being created as the amount of biodiversity-related activity and information expands rapidly, with several major international initiatives underway (e.g., Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS), Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), North American Biodiversity Network (NABIN), and others).

This Strategic Plan covers the projected operations of all CHM Focal Points worldwide, for a five year period from 2000 through 2004 and with a longer term overall strategic view out to 2009. It should be regarded as a 'living plan' that will be continually refined as the CHM matures.

1.2 SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis

The strengths which can assist the CHM towards its goals are:

1. Significant CHM installed capacity, momentum and operational experience in some developed and developing countries.
2. Established Secretariat Focal Point with acknowledged responsibility for facilitation of the development of the CHM, and a supportive Informal Advisory Committee (IAC).
3. Establishment of 137 designated CHM National Focal Points.

The weaknesses which could impede the CHM in the pursuit of its goals are:

1. Limited resources (staff and funding) for the CHM Unit of the Secretariat, and the other CHM Focal Points.
2. Lack of clear agreement among national focal points and CHM staff of the scope of the CHM, and how to proceed and succeed.
3. Lack of clarity about ownership and leadership for the CHM.

The opportunities that are relevant to achieving the CHM goals are:

1. Growing international awareness of biodiversity issues and their importance, and increasing levels of biodiversity international organizational activity.

2. Extensive international support for the goals of the CBD (Convention ratified by 175 Parties).
3. General agreement on the need for and importance of the CHM.
4. The CHM is strategically important to implementation of the CBD, as it is a key tool for facilitating cooperation, and is the focus for accessing the large amount of biodiversity information and experience already available.
5. Continuing swift advances in computing and communications technology (e.g., Internet) promise order-of-magnitude potential improvements in CHM information access and management every few years.
6. COP has identified the CHM as a key tool to implement the Convention.

The threats which might disrupt or inhibit the achievement of the CHM goals are:

1. Investments in biodiversity and the CHM cannot usually be justified on the expectation of short term returns.
2. General lack of understanding in many countries and organizations of the nature and role of the CHM.
3. Developed countries and institutions may seek to use the CHM primarily as a promotional and marketing tool.  This could dominate the way the CHM is structured and operated, making it difficult for developing countries to articulate and meet their own needs.
4. Procedures to access Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for the establishment of national CHMs are convoluted. In addition, the CHM add-on module is insufficient to cover the needs to fully operationalize the NFPs.

## 1.3    Key Issues

1. Definition of the CHM.  There is a serious lack of understanding of what the CHM is, where it should go and what is needed to build national CHMs.  Leadership from the COP has been abstract and imprecise.  The assumption by some countries that creating a national CHM means nothing more than putting up a web page needs to be corrected.

2. Focus.  Article 18.3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which created the CHM, instructed it to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation. So far, most of the focus of the CHM has been on information rather than cooperation.  A major objective of the Strategic Plan will be to broaden the CHM focus to include technical and scientific cooperation between Parties to the Convention, their partners, and other stakeholders.

3. Ownership.  The question of ownership of the CHM is an issue.  The expressed

intention of the COP in establishing the CHM was bottom-up, i.e., that the member countries would assume ownership and provide direction and resources. In practice, however, there has been a lack of commitment and support from many member countries.

4. Asymmetries. Major asymmetries in participation exist within the current CHM implementation, with technically advanced and extensive networks operating in some countries, while the majority of the Parties are still unsure what the CHM is all about. Identifying real benefits for participation in the CHM will be key.

5. Role of the Secretariat. The CHM Unit of the Secretariat has limited resources. Currently, approximately 40% of the time of four CHM staff is devoted to uploading CBD-related information to the CHM websites, as requested by COP. COP decisions requiring significantly more activity from the CHM should be accompanied by corresponding additional funding, including staff resources.

6. Funding. Financial support to developing countries to implement their CHMs has been inadequate to the practical costs of creating a viable national network. GEF should fully comply with COP 3 and COP 4 decisions regarding support to implement the CHM. Furthermore, a wider base of support for the CHM needs to be established (see section 9.)

7. Sustainability. The global CHM network needs to plan for its long-term sustainability, and access to resources – financial, technical, human and information – are essential to that sustainability. Relationships between the CHM and international financing initiatives need to be fostered and strengthened, and creative partnership opportunities need to be explored.

# 2. Mission

The Clearing-house Mechanism has been set up to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its three objectives:

- the conservation of biological diversity,
- the sustainable use of its components, and
- the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

# 3. Vision

The Clearing-House Mechanism will become the primary global cooperation and information network on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It will promote and support at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels:

- better, more cost-effective decision-making, for example for trans-boundary issues and topics such as migratory and alien species, and for situations where only readily available information can be considered;
- international cooperation and sharing of related technology, training, education, research, information and expertise;
- reduced duplication of related efforts; and therefore
- quicker, better and more cost-effective implementation of biodiversity-related initiatives, and of the Convention overall.

Working in collaboration with related global initiatives, the CHM will:

- link and synergize their contributions, and
- help consolidate and influence the development of the biodiversity component of an emerging global information infrastructure covering many other subject areas as well..

Embracing all scientific and technological ways and means, including person-to-person, paper-based and electronic components, it will operate as an decentralized, open and transparent, distributed network of mutually supportive networks.  It will take a proactive and collaborative approach to identifying, prioritizing and meeting the needs of its wide range of users[†]. In so doing, it shall also endeavor to expand its activities and services over time to meet the broader objectives of the Convention (e.g. by providing access to key biodiversity information in common language, and helping promote biodiversity concepts and messages to the general public worldwide.)

†from developed and developing countries, from government and non-government organizations, from scientific establishments, from businesses and other private organizations, from civil society, and from the communications media.

# 4. Goals

The CHM has three goals, all of which are necessary for achieving the goals of the Convention.

| 1. Cooperation.  Promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation.[*] |
|---|

This goal involves use of the CHM for identifying, developing and promoting opportunities for collaboration in implementing the Convention.

| 2. Information Exchange.  Development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity. |
|---|

This has been the primary goal of the CHM's pilot phase, and will continue to be priority. It involves:
- providing improved and integrated access to information sources that already exist,
- fostering the establishment and development of necessary information sources where they do not exist, and
- promoting the exchange of information and experience.

| 3. Network Development.  Development of the CHM Focal Points and their partners. |
|---|

This goal covers the development and ongoing support of the CHM's network of networks, to meet the growing needs of the CHM in a timely manner and with limited resources. While the priority is to support the growth of CHM Focal Points, the intention is to work through them to support their partners / networks as well.

- within and between countries, for the effective implementation of the Convention

# 5. First Goal: Scientific and Technical Cooperation

| Goal 1. Cooperation.  Promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation.* |
|---|

* within and between countries,  for the effective implementation of the Convention

This goal involves use of the CHM for identifying, developing and promoting opportunities for collaboration in implementing the Convention.

It focuses on six key areas of scientific, technical and technological cooperation:
- decision making tools and processes,
- training and capacity building,
- research,
- funding,
- access to and transfer of technology, and
- repatriation of information.

The use of the CHM will lower the barriers to trans-boundary work in these areas, and lead to more cost-effective decision making.  It will also facilitate interdisciplinary integration (e.g. of  taxonomic, ecological, and information science initiatives) and the corresponding development of new biodiversity knowledge and solutions.

The following sections outline:
- measurable objectives for guiding and evaluating progress towards this goal,
- strategies and tactics for achieving the objectives, and
- corresponding roles and responsibilities.

## 5.1 Objectives

5.1.1 Decision Making. Steady improvement in the CHM's ability to support effective decision making relevant to the objectives of the Convention.  This objective covers the cooperative development of decision making tools and processes, and the overall ability of the CHM to support relevant decision making.

5.1.2 Training and Capacity Building. Ongoing progress with the ability of the CHM to support the development and promotion of related cooperative training and capacity building opportunities, including specific training for the effective participation of users in the CHM.

5.1.3 Research. Continued improvement in the ability of the CHM to develop and promote cooperative research opportunities.  This objective covers two main areas of biodiversity research.

One area of focus is applied biodiversity research in general — the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

The second area of focus specifically covers cooperative projects which contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in developing countries. One example of such cooperation would be a research program on the medicinal use of a plant originating in a developing country, through which that country receives research experience and other related training.

5.1.4 Funding.  Ongoing progress in the ability of:
- GEF to effectively fund projects,
- the CHM to attract and promote broader international cooperation in funding projects related to the objectives of the Convention, and
- of all countries to proactively attain or procure funds to support the ongoing and full implementation of their National Focal Points and their associated national networks..

5.1.5 Access to and Transfer of Technology. Ongoing improvement in the ability of the CHM to facilitate access to and the transfer of technologies that:
- are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, or
- make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.

 This objective covers technologies that:
- avoid or minimize adverse effects on biological diversity,
- support local populations in developing remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced, or
- encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.

It covers technology transfer that is characterized by:
- fair and most favorable terms for developing countries,
- the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, and

- developing countries gaining access to and transfer of technologies that use the genetic resources they provide.

5.1.6 Repatriation of Information. Ongoing improvement in the ability of the CHM to promote the repatriation of information. This goal covers a wide range of biodiversity information, for example on species, medicines, and the sustainable use of biological resources. It addresses the repatriation of this information, from the countries that have made use of it (for example, for medicinal or research purposes) back to the countries from which it originated.

These objectives will be achieved through four synergistic strategies, as shown in the following table. Each strategy is described in the next section. For each objective, baseline measurements are provided in section 8.

| Strategy | Objective | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5.1.1 decision making | 5.1.2 training | 5.1.3 research | 5.1.4 funding | 5.1.5 tech-transfer | 5.1.6 repatriation |
| 5.2.1  Track best practices, needs, and priorities for collaboration | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5.2.2  Use funding to promote country involvement, partnering and progress in priority areas | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5.2.3  Provide a collaboration promotion mechanism for institutions and experts, service and technology providers | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## 5.2  Strategies and Tactics

5.2.1 Track Best Practices, Needs and Priorities for Collaboration (starts in the short term). For each of the six key areas of cooperation, track and share information on needs, priorities, strengths, best practices, lessons learned and trends, for implementing relevant Articles of the Convention, on an ongoing basis.

- Ask all parties to the Convention to post analyses of their respective implementation of these Articles on their CHM websites as part of their National Reports.  Enable countries without websites to provide the information by other means.  Work towards open access to integrated national reporting, covering the above categories of information.

- Provide the opportunity for Thematic Focal Points and working groups (e.g. the working group on Article 8j) to post their own analyses.

- Create a section of the CHM International website to automatically collect, synthesize and report on such information and knowledge at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels.  Ensure that data from Focal Points without websites are integrated.  Provide highlights in the CHM newsletter, with contact information for / links to further details.

- Share best practices in a range of other ways as well, including:
  - regional and global workshops / users' conferences,
  - CHM user groups,
  - "best practice challenges",
  - coordination with related initiatives, at all levels. For example, attend their meetings and convene common meetings,
  - regular updates and enhancements to the User Guide for Building a CHM node, and other CHM training resources, and
  - targeted e-mails with short abstracts of best practices, with links to websites containing full details (users could register to receive e-mails on specific topics of interest).

# Examples of What to Track

- Decision Making: Upcoming COP and other decisions requiring new or better decision-making processes; examples of decision-making practices that have been particularly effective in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; information on related pilots and their replication; lessons learned from successful and less successful decision-making experiences related to implementation of the Convention.

- Training and Capacity Building: Training and capacity building needs and priorities; training and capacity building case studies, for example of related pilots and their replication; areas of national strength in related training and capacity building.

- Research: Needs, priorities, trends and strengths in the development of new or improved methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; best practices and lessons learned in the design of cooperative research projects which contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in developing countries; results of related pilots ( such as "The Columbia-Germany Bank of Ideas for Research Projects Cooperation") and related suggestions for replicating or expanding the pilots.

- Funding: Funding needs and priorities; examples of successful, collaborative funding approaches; local, national and international funding programs, and related guidelines and restrictions. It is recognized that while some funding programs may desire a wide range of international applications, others may be targeted at a particular audience or be restricted in other ways.

- Access to and Transfer of Technology: Needs, priorities, trends and strengths in developing, accessing and transferring technologies that avoid or minimize adverse effects on biological diversity, or that support local populations in developing remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced; results of and lessons learned from pilot projects; examples of technology transfer that has encouraged the customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements, or through which a developing country gained access to and transfer of technologies that use the genetic resources it provides.

- Repatriation of Information: Needs and priorities related to repatriation; results of pilot projects for demonstrating cost-effective and replicable methods for achieving repatriation, and for establishing linkages to the patent offices in each country for up-to-date information on new patent registrations and patents in the public domain.

5.2.2 Use Funding to Promote Country Involvement, Partnering and Progress in Priority Areas (long term). On the basis of demonstrated user needs, ask GEF and other international funding partners to reserve portions of their funding pools for supporting progressive, national-, regional-, and sub-regional based projects in each of the key areas of cooperation.

- In cooperation with partner organizations, proactively work with GEF and other international funders to facilitate the development of criteria and reserved pools of funding for supporting priority projects in each key area of cooperation (see also: section 6.2.1 on prioritizing expansion)

- Facilitate the organization and promotion of a joint call for proposals process that outlines the priority areas for funding, and that invites submissions. Specifically encourage progressive and/or pilot projects at the national and regional levels that address one or more of the priority areas in a cost-effective and adaptable manner.

### Recently Articulated Priorities for Pilot Projects

The following descriptions have been compiled, for each key category of cooperation, from CHM Regional Workshops.

- Decision Making: Progressive projects dealing with threats to biological diversity; economic valuation of biodiversity and incentives for its sustainable use; and environmental impact assessment and management

- Training and Capacity Building: Pilot projects towards establishing standard directories of qualified trainers, experts and courses, at the country, sub-regional or regional levels (designed to be easily searched by BioSeek)

- Research: Pilot projects towards establishing standard directories of institutions and experts, biological collections, maps, and satellite images at the country, sub-regional or regional levels (designed to be easily searched by BioSeek); progressive projects on biodiversity information and practices, including those that help link and synthesize existing knowledge in priority areas, including the specific priority areas identified through the regional workshops.

- Funding: Pilot projects towards establishing standard directories of relevant funding sources at the country, sub-regional or regional levels (designed to be easily searched by BioSeek), searchable by keyword, region, and area of cooperation; pilot projects on the collection and synthesis of data on markets and the trade of goods and services related to biodiversity.

- Access to and Transfer of Technology (see section 5.2.4, below)

- Repatriation of Information: Projects to demonstrate cost-effective and replicable methods for achieving repatriation, and for establishing linkages to the patent offices in each country for up-to-date information on new patent registrations and patents in the public domain.

5.2.3 Provide a Collaboration Promotion Mechanism for Institutions and Experts, and service and technology providers(development starts in the short term).

- Create a mechanism that institutions and experts, and service and technology providers can use to introduce themselves, and to identify areas of potential collaboration which they are interested in pursuing. Users would be able to search electronically (Web / CD ROM), or make requests (phone, fax etc.) according to various criteria, including geographical location, type of assistance (including each key areas of cooperation) and subject matter.

The CHM Focal Points would act as "gatekeepers" to the information on their nodes, with full local access to content. The service and technology providers, institutions and experts would be responsible for keeping their own information up to date, and for conforming to guidelines. For example, there should be minimum qualifications and / or evaluation criteria set for each category of service and technology provided.

As another example, participating suppliers could be required to provide details on how they facilitate capacity building and/or further development of their technology in the recipient country. This information could be highlighted as a recommended consideration in comparing vendors; alternatively there could be minimum levels of compliance required of participating suppliers.

- Help attract and fund pilot projects at the national and regional levels for cost-effectively developing the required inventories of people and technologies.

## Examples of Relevant Organizations / Individuals

- Decision Making: Business / policy research and educational institutions; related experts / consultants (including those with traditional knowledge); suppliers of related decision-making tools.

- Training and Capacity Building: Research / education / training institutions; related experts / consultants (including those with traditional knowledge); suppliers of related training tools.

- Research: Public and private research institutions; related experts / consultants (including those with traditional knowledge); suppliers of related research tools.

- Funding:  Funding organizations with a relevant interest;  fund raisers with related experience.

- Access to and Transfer of Technology:  Manufacturers and distributors of relevant technologies;  providers of related services, including technology transfer experts; public and private research institutions.

- Repatriation of Information: Patent offices in each country;  related experts / consultants; suppliers of related tools.

## 5.3 Roles and Responsibilities

While the following chart provides guidelines on roles and responsibilities, it is recognized that actual involvement may need to vary from country to country

| Strategy | Roles and Responsibilities | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NFP's | Regional, Subregional and Thematic FP's | Secretariat FP, IAC |
| 5.2.1 Track best practices, needs and priorities for collaboration | • provide information in National Reports<br>• post the Reports on-line, where practical<br>• promote use of this information by local partners<br>• host / participate in workshops, users' conferences users' groups, and best practice challenges<br>• coordinate with related national / local initiatives | • provide information on their own operations, and on thematic / regional needs and priorities<br>• post National Reports from countries unable to report on-line<br>• promote use of the information by regional / thematic partners<br>• coordinate and help organize regional / thematic workshops and users' groups<br>• coordinate with related regional / thematic initiatives<br>• send targeted e-mails with short abstracts of best practices | • provide report templates<br>• develop mechanisms for collecting and synthesizing the information<br>• promote use by UN bodies and other global partners<br>• facilitate the organization of global and regional workshops, users' conferences, users' groups, and best practice challenges<br>• coordinate with related global initiatives<br>• coordinate the development, updating and promotion of related documentation and training resources<br>• provide a global mechanism for sending, and send targeted e-mails with short abstracts of best practices |

| Strategy | Roles and Responsibilities | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NFP's | Regional, Subregional and Thematic FP's | Secretariat FP, IAC |
| 5.2.2 Use Funding to Promote Country Involvement, Partnering and Progress in Priority Areas | • carry out / help fund strategic pilot projects, evaluations and sharing of results | • help set up financial partnerships and obtaining reserved funding <br> • promote calls for proposals | • initiate and manage partnerships with international funders (such as GEF) <br> • develop proposed funding criteria, seek reserved funding, publish and promote call for proposals <br> • provide mechanisms for sharing best practices and lessons learned from the projects that are funded |
| 5.2.4 Provide a collaboration promotion mechanism for institutions and experts, and service and technology providers | • initiate / fund / carry out pilots <br> • promote use of the mechanism by national / local actors | • facilitate development of the mechanism, including minimum requirements and/or evaluation criteria <br> • help find funding for pilots, attract and coordinate pilots <br> • promote use of the mechanism among regional / thematic actors | • facilitate development of the mechanism, including minimum requirements and/or evaluation criteria <br> • help find funding for pilots, attract and coordinate pilots <br> • promote use of the mechanism among global actors |

# 6. Second Goal: Information Exchange

Goal 2. Information Exchange.  Development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity.*

> \* within and between countries, in an open and decentralized manner,
> using conventional and electronic means of communication, for the effective
> implementation of the Convention

This goal involves:
- providing improved and integrated access to information sources that already exist,
- fostering the establishment and development of necessary information sources where they do not exist, and
- promoting the exchange of information, knowledge, experience and best practices.

The following sections outline:
- measurable objectives for guiding and evaluating progress towards this goal,
- strategies and tactics for achieving the objectives, and
- corresponding roles and responsibilities.

## 6.1  Objectives

The following objectives reflect desired growth in seven necessary and complementary areas of performance.

6.1.1 Contribution  Steady improvement in the perceived value of information available through the CHM, in achieving the goals of the Convention.

6.1.2 Use. Continuous expansion in the use made of CHM information and processes.

6.1.3 Quality. Steady improvement in the overall quality of CHM information, and the perceived ability of users to assess the quality of specific information.

6.1.4 Speed and Facility. Progressive enhancement of the speed and facility of CHM transactions, including the ability of users to locate and retrieve desired information.

6.1.5 User Responsiveness.   Continuous improvement in the ability of users to articulate individual and collective information needs, and of the CHM to meet those needs in

a timely manner.

6.1.6 Integration.  Steady growth in the perceived helpfulness of the CHM for enabling comparisons between data, and in providing syntheses of this information.

6.1.7 Volume. Progressive expansion in the amount of biodiversity information and knowledge referenced or directly accessible via the CHM, for key areas of interest and focus (e.g. traditional knowledge; national reports; legislation and policies; scientific, technical and thematic issues, etc.)

These objectives will be achieved through four synergistic strategies, as shown in the following table.  Each strategy is described in the next section.  Note that the building of the information networks themselves is covered in goal three.  For each objective, baseline measurements are provided in section 8.

| Strategy | Objective | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6.1.1 contribution | 6.1.2 use | 6.1.3 quality | 6.1.4 facility | 6.1.5 responsiveness | 6.1.6 integration | 6.1.7 volume |
| 6.2.1  Ensure compatibility through standardization and interoperability | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6.2.2  Track information needs, priorities and best practices | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 6.2.3  Prioritize and promote expansion | ☐ | ☐ | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6.2.4  Provide open, world-wide access to existing biodiversity information. | ☐ | ☐ | | ☐ | | | ☐ |

# 6.2 Strategies and Tactics

6.2.1 Ensure Compatibility Through Standardization and Interoperability  (starts in the short term, top down)  Provide and achieve acceptance of tools, guidelines, protocols and standards for promoting the compatibility of information content, and network structure and processes.

- Monitor and facilitate the progress of appropriate standards organizations.
- Coordinate with related initiatives (e.g. NABIN, IABIN, GBIF, EIONET, Global Information Infrastructure).  For example, attend their meetings and convene common meetings.
- Identify areas where information and infrastructure compatibility are necessary (keep standardization requirements to a minimum).
- Identify best practices, standards and protocols regarding:
    - CHM web site formats, topic areas and terminologies,
    - the quality and reliability of information, and methods for enabling users to assess them,
    - information sharing protocols, and
    - indexing and searching protocols (including the use of metadata).
- Document the standards and protocols with clear rules and guidelines for countries and organizations creating or expanding their CHM nodes.
- Develop criteria and procedures for the full involvement of other CBD stakeholders (such as international businesses and non-profit organizations) as Thematic Focal Points or TFP partners.
- Ensure that all CBD / CHM databases are Z39.50 protocol compliant.
- Regularly update and enhance the User Guide for Building a CHM node, associated training, and related compatibility and interoperability checklists.

6.2.2 Track Information Needs, Priorities and Best Practices (starts in the short term). Track gaps in information and expertise; and national needs, priorities, best practices, and lessons learned, on an ongoing basis.

- Develop and use multiple vehicles for enabling users to articulate individual and collective information needs and priorities, including: national reports, users' surveys, user requests and complaints, workshops / users' conferences, and users' groups.  See section 5.2.1 for additional details.

6.2.3 Prioritize and Promote Expansion  (starts in the short term)  Determine priorities for CHM growth and improvement based on user needs and strategic considerations, and promote expansion accordingly.

- Coordinate with related initiatives, at all levels. For example, attend their meetings and convene common meetings.

- Use Funding to Promote Country Involvement, Partnering and Progress in Priority Areas (see section 5.2.2 for details).
- During the period between COP meetings, focus information expansion and synthesis on issues and topics to be covered at the upcoming meeting.

6.2.4  Provide Open, World-Wide Access to Existing Biodiversity Information. Engage National Focal Points in providing access through the CHM to existing information within their countries.

# 6.3 Roles and Responsibilities

While the following chart provides guidelines on roles and responsibilities, it is recognized that actual involvement may need to vary from country to country

| Strategy | Roles and Responsibilities | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NFP's | Regional, Subregional and Thematic FP's | Secretariat FP, IAC |
| 6.2.1 Ensure Compatibility Through Standardization and Interoperability | • contribute to the development of standards <br> • help coordinate the communication of and training in these standards, within their networks <br> • follow the standards | • contribute to the development of standards <br> • help coordinate the communication of and training in these standards, within their networks <br> • follow the standards | • coordinate with related initiatives and standards organizations <br> • facilitate the setting of mutually agreed upon standards <br> • coordinate the development, updating and promotion of related documentation and training resources <br> • follow the standards |
| 6.2.2 Track Information Needs, Priorities and Best Practices | • see 5.2.1 | • see 5.2.1 | • see 5.2.1 |
| 6.2.3 Prioritize and Promote Expansion | • make local and national information available through their CHM node <br> • coordinate with related local / national initiatives | • make regional / thematic information available through their CHM node <br> • coordinate with related regional / thematic initiatives | • coordinate with related global initiatives <br> • coordinate across all geographic level initiatives |
| 6.2.4  Provide Open, World-Wide Access to Existing Biodiversity Information | • make local and national information available through their CHM node | • facilitate world-wide access to the information available through regional / thematic nodes | • facilitate world-wide access to the information available through CHM nodes, with the Secretariat's node (Web Site) providing a master portal to the system. |

## 7. Third Goal: Network Development and Organizational Efficiency

3. Network Development.  Development of the CHM Focal Points and their partners.

This goal covers the development and ongoing support of the CHM's network of networks, to meet the growing needs of the CHM in a timely manner and with limited resources.  This network consists of people, organizations, web sites, newsletters, and other mechanisms for cooperation and the sharing of information.  While the priority is to support the growth of CHM Focal Points, the intention is to work through them to support their partners / networks as well.

The following sections outline:
- measurable objectives for guiding and evaluating progress towards this goal,
- strategies and tactics for achieving the objectives, and
- corresponding roles and responsibilities.

## 7.1 Objectives

7.1.1 Establishment of Focal Points  Progressive expansion in the number of countries, subregions and regions with full-functioning CHM Focal Points established (including thematic Focal Points).

7.1.2 Leverage  Steady increases in the efficiency of CHM Focal Points in supporting the capabilities and contributions of the CHM.

7.1.3 Duplication of Effort Avoided  Ongoing reductions in duplication of work by CHM focal points and their partners.

7.1.4 Awareness and Use of the CHM  Steady increases in awareness and use, by target user groups, of relevant CHM capabilities and benefits.

7.1.5 Capacity Building. Steady increase in relevant knowledge, skills and procedures necessary for the creation, operation and use of CHM nodes, as well as for overall progress towards the goals of the Convention.

7.1.6  Sustained Funding of CHM Focal Point Development.  Ongoing progress in securing the required funding for supporting the sustained development and operation of CHM Focal Points.

These objectives will be achieved through six synergistic strategies, as shown in the following table. Each strategy is described in the next section.. For each objective, baseline measurements are provided in section 8.

| Strategy | Objective | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7.1.1 Focal Points | 7.1.2 leverage | 7.1.3 duplication | 7.1.4 awareness / use | 7.1.5 capacity building | 7.1.6 sustained funding |
| 7.2.1 Provide start-up assistance and ongoing capacity building | ☐ | | | | ☐ | |
| 7.2.2 Address obstacles to growth | ☐ | | | | ☐ | |
| 7.2.3 Maintain local ownership | | ☐ | | | ☐ | |
| 7.2.4 Rely on partnerships, focus on facilitation | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.2.5 Concentrate on value-added | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.2.6 Promote use of the CHM | | | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.2.7 Develop Funding Strategies at all levels | ☐ | | | | | ☐ |

## 7.2 Strategies and Tactics

7.2.1 Provide Start-Up Assistance and Ongoing Capacity Building (starts in the short term) Ensure that countries, regions, and subregions are assisted in setting up and developing their Focal Points, and in accessing ongoing capacity building support.

- Develop and update support materials, such as the CHM CD ROM toolkit. Update these on an ongoing basis, with links / references to
    - best practices and lessons learned from other Focal Points,
    - appropriate user groups, as they become available, and
    - testimonials / case studies articulating how countries and their CHM users have benefited from the development of their national CHM Focal Point(s).

- Provide capacity building sessions at regional workshops, based on user needs (see section 5.2.1).
- Provide an operational model for implementation of CHM National, Regional, Subregional and Thematic Focal Points. Where possible, each Focal Point should be provided with at least the following minimum resources:
  - the equivalent of at least one full time person to run the Focal Point and develop partnerships,
  - telephone and mail support, and
  - a computer, connected to the Internet, with a level-three Web browser and plain text e-mail capabilities;
- Organize a meeting of CHM National Focal Points once a year. To minimize costs and increase attendance, these should be held in conjunction with COP, SBSTTA and/or CHM expert meetings.
- Negotiate financial incentives through GEF and other financial mechanisms, in recognition of the special needs of developing countries.
- Provide a "partnering" / "buddy system" for new Focal Points, as desired, to provide peer assistance with the initial learning curve.

7.2.2 Address Obstacles to Growth (starts in the short term)  Identify and overcome national, regional and international obstacles to the establishment and full development of CHM Focal Points.

- At the global level, focus especially on developing countries.
- Focal Points at the regional, subregional and national levels should also identify and eliminate barriers to fuller development of the CHM within their areas of responsibility.

7.2.3  Maintain Local Ownership of Information.

- Continue to require each level to maintain and post / make available its own information.
- Encourage all Focal Points to facilitate access to information within their country / region / thematic area, rather than on posting / making it available  themselves.

7.2.4 Rely on Partnerships, and Focus on Facilitation. Concentrate on facilitating, encouraging and promoting rather than implementing. Engage a wide range of biodiversity stakeholders, to pool resources and share work, including promotion of the CHM and its Call for Proposals.  Help with partners' capacity building through joint endeavors

- Ask Focal Points at each level to inventory their current networks; identify gaps, needs, and promising partners; approach priority people and organizations; and develop new networks, organizations and cooperative activities, and/or help modify them as necessary.
- Use cross-promotional opportunities, and the funding and managing of cooperative projects as principal methods of building relationships.
- At each level, develop memoranda of agreement between the major institutions, to clearly delineate areas of focus and mutual cooperation.
- Encourage Focal Points to concentrate on making local information accessible to others (particularly through the CHM search engines), rather than on posting it themselves.


7.2.5 Concentrate on Value-Added  (long term)  Continue to clarify, grow competence in, and gain widespread recognition for the value-added roles of each type of focal point.

- Select and prioritize among the possible value-added roles for each level of Focal Point.
- Develop competence in the execution of these roles through experience and active capacity development.
- Encourage and assist the recognition of CHM Focal Points' value-added among CHM users and supporters, through:
  - accessible descriptions of Focal Point roles and value-added in appropriate locations (e.g., CHM international websites)
  - reports to regional conferences and COP
  - visible attribution of responsibility and "signing of work" (e.g., CHM websites, infrastructure development guidelines, etc.)


7.2.6 Promote Use of the CHM (starts in the short term)  Promote awareness, understanding, expansion and use of the CHM through communications and education activities.
- Encourage and/or help fund the development by a few countries of  their Communications Strategies for promoting the understanding, expansion and use of the CHM, in cooperation with their partners and associated networks.  Ensure that such strategies include measures for increasing the participation of a wider range of stakeholders, particularly local communities and those with traditional knowledge.
- Share best practices and lesson learned, and develop a suggested strategy that can be easily tailored to each Focal Point's needs.
- Require CHM Focal Points at each level to develop and help coordinate the implementation of such strategies in cooperation with their partners and associated networks.
- Direct COP to provide support to the ad-hoc working group on Article 8j, to help

ensure use of the CHM by indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles.

- Establish a special working group, or appoint a Rapporteur, to prepare a report to the Secretariat on indigenous communications issues and needs related to the CHM and the Convention.
- Clarify the intended role of the CHM in promoting biodiversity concepts and messages to the general public.

7.2.7 Develop Funding Strategies for all Focal Points (starts in the short term). Ensure the long term development and operation of CHM Focal Points, by developing sound short- and long- term funding strategies for Focal Points at all levels.
- Encourage and/or help fund the development by a few countries of their funding strategies, in cooperation with their partners and associated networks.
- Share best practices and lesson learned, and develop a suggested strategy that can be easily tailored to each Focal Point's needs.
- Require CHM Focal Points at each level to develop such strategies in cooperation with their partners and associated networks.
- Encourage all Focal Points to involve partners who might contribute or help arrange funding (strategy 7.2.4).
- In order to demonstrate why each Focal Point should receive funding, assist them in concentrating on and articulating their value-added (strategy 7.2.5) and in promoting use of their services (7.2.6)
- Provide capacity building support on how to obtain funding successfully, including how to cost-effectively document performance and impact.
- Make use of testimonials / case studies articulating on the benefits of CHM use.

# 7.3 Roles and Responsibilities

While the following chart provides guidelines on roles and responsibilities, it is recognized that actual involvement may need to vary from country to country

| Strategy | Roles and Responsibilities | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NFP's | Regional, Subregional and Thematic FP's | Secretariat FP, IAC |
| 7.2.1 Provide Start-Up Assistance and Ongoing Capacity Building Support | • Install CHMs, follow startup guidelines<br>• Partner cooperatively with new Focal Points<br>• Identify capacity building needs (see section 5.2.1) and make use of support offered<br>• Share best practices<br>• Attend the yearly meetings of CHM NFPs | • Install CHMs, follow startup guidelines<br>• Help initiate / support partnerships<br>• Monitor capacity building needs regionally, and facilitate the development and delivery of required support | • Develop, & distribute related materials<br>• Facilitate the development and delivery of workshop sessions<br>• Provide an operational model for implementation of CHM National, Regional, Subregional and Thematic Focal Points<br>• Publish partnering guidelines, initiate/support partnerships<br>• Monitor capacity building needs globally , and facilitate the development and delivery of required support<br>• organize yearly meeting of CHM NFPs<br>• IAC: Enhance GEF accessibility |

| Strategy | Roles and Responsibilities | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NFP's | Regional, Subregional and Thematic FP's | Secretariat FP, IAC |
| 7.2.2 Address Obstacles to Growth | • Identify local barriers, seek solutions, pursue fuller CHM development | • Assist NFP's in identifying barriers, seek solutions, pursue fuller CHM development | • Coordinate international efforts to identify and eliminate barriers (including the Independent Review of the CHM and subsequent User Surveys).<br>• Capture learning, extrapolate to regional and subregional context, arrange for GEF and others to fund pilots<br>• IAC: remove barriers to access to GEF funding |
| 7.2.3 Maintain Local Ownership of Information | • Encourage local posting and maintenance of appropriate information and metrics | • Encourage local posting and maintenance of appropriate information and metrics | • Post UN meeting and other global information, post and maintain generic guidelines, engines and program metrics |
| 7.2.4 Rely on Partnerships, and Focus on Facilitation | • Identify and attract national and local CHM affiliates, interconnect them with the CHM, document agreements and post on CHM | • Identify and attract regional and thematic CHM affiliates, interconnect them with the CHM, document agreements and post on CHM | • Identify and attract global CHM affiliates, request regions/NFPs / TFPs to do the same,<br>• provide templates/guidelines for documenting agreements |

| Strategy | Roles and Responsibilities | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | NFP's | Regional, Subregional and Thematic FP's | Secretariat FP, IAC |
| 7.2.5 Concentrate on Value-Added | • Identify local value-added roles, post on local CHM<br>• Promote CHM value-added locally | • Identify regional and thematic value-added roles, and post<br>• Promote CHM value-added regionally | • Develop and promote value-added concept and model<br>• Document and publish for CHM Unit of the Secretariat<br>• Actively grow own core competence<br>• Promote CHM value-added with global partners |
| 7.2.6 Promote Use of the CHM | • Propose / carry out / help fund national and local CHM promotion strategies<br>• Share learning<br>• Provide promotional information to national and local partners | • Assist with development of national / local CHM promotion strategies<br>• Propose / carry out regional CHM promotion strategies,<br>• Share learning<br>• Provide promotional information to regional partners, develop templates | • Maintain global CHM promotion strategy and focus, develop planning template<br>• Assist with development of regional and national strategies,<br>• Provide promotional information to international partners, develop templates |
| 7.2.7 Develop Funding Strategies for all Focal Points | • Develop national CHM funding strategies<br>• Share learning | • Assist with development of national CHM funding strategies<br>• Develop regional CHM funding strategies,<br>• Share learning | • Facilitate the development of funding strategies, develop template<br>• IAC: enhance accessibility to GEF and other funding |

Potential Partners for each type of CHM Focal Point

- National Focal Points: national partners, stakeholders, and networks, including national thematic Focal Points; local and indigenous communities; local businesses (including providers of related products and services, commercial research institutions, venture capital firms, and related trade associations); professional associations; governments; NGOs; research and training institutions (including national research councils, peer-reviewed journals, and institutions of higher learning in related areas of science, technology, business, policy, and government administration.)

- Regional and Subregional Focal Points: regional and subregional partners, stakeholders, and networks, including bilateral and multilateral funding institutions, other international donors.

- Secretariat, and International Thematic Focal Points: global partners, stakeholders, and networks, including other UN Conventions, bilateral and multilateral funding institutions, and other international donors. Examples of such organizations include: UNEP Biodiversity Data Management Project (capacity building); The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Megascience subgroup on Bioinformatics, its GBIF project, and the G7 ENRM topic working group on biodiversity (information structure); BCIS, a consortium of global acting and biodiversity-related non-governmental organizations (information content and capacity building); the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

# 8. Evaluation Issues

In order to guide and evaluate its progress, the CHM will rely on two primary evaluation mechanisms:

- Independent Reviews. Starting in 1999, an independent review of the CHM shall be conducted every five years.
- User Surveys. User surveys, which will form an integral part of each independent review, will also be carried out at least one additional time between each independent review. This additional survey will provide a proactive, cost-effective method of tracking progress and identifying implementation concerns and difficulties, during the period between the Independent Reviews.

The following charts outline preliminary evaluation criteria for each objective, and the baseline established in 1999 through the independent review process. These criteria will need to be refined, based on continued experience. In addition, targets should be set for each criteria, through a collaborative process that is open and transparent to all CHM Focal Points and partners.

## 1. Cooperation. Promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation.

| Objective | Criteria | Baseline (1999) |
|---|---|---|
| 5.1.1 Decision Making. | Success of the CHM in facilitating scientific/ technical initiatives which support Convention goals | • Just <40% affirm CHM's success<br>• Just >60% refute it<br>• 11 success case studies cited |
| | Success of the CHM in facilitating decision making which supports Convention goals | • Not specifically asked |
| 5.1.2 Training and Capacity Building | Number of training events offered or promoted (last 3 yrs) | • 30% CHM nodes offered 1-5 training events<br>• 20% offered 5-20<br>• 2 offered >20 events |
| | Need for local training events | • 40% of survey respondents request local training |
| | Perceived quality of Secretariat's capacity- building | • 13% of survey respondents report a need to improve guidance and leadership<br>• 13% also desire increased support/training<br>• 10% desire better networks |

| Objective | Criteria | Baseline (1999) |
|---|---|---|
| 5.1.3 Research | Success of the CHM in facilitating scientific/ technical initiatives which support Convention goals | • Just <40% affirm CHM's success<br>• Just >60% refute it<br>• 11 success case studies cited |
| | success of the CHM in facilitating scientific/ technical initiatives which support Convention goals | • Not specifically asked |

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## 2. Information Exchange. Development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity.

| Objective | Criteria | Baseline (1999) |
|---|---|---|
| 6.1.1 Contribution | Success of the CHM in facilitating scientific/ technical initiatives which support Convention goals | • Just <40% affirm CHM's success<br>• Just >40% refute it<br>• 11 success case studies cited |
| | Usefulness of having COP decisions available | • Majority rate this as somewhat to very useful<br>• A few indicate that these are not very useful |
| | Overall usefulness of information available through CHM | • 20% of those surveyed reported a need to improve information content |
| 6.1.2 Use | Number of information requests/week received by CHM nodes | • ≈ 50% receive <10<br>• 30% receive 10-25<br>• 10% receive 26-100<br>• 2 nodes receive >100 |
| | Number of information requests/week from nodes to global CHM | • > 60% make <5 requests/searches<br>• 15% make 6-25<br>• 5% make >25 |
| | Number of NFP's receiving information via the CHM Focal Point listserv | • ≈ 55% |
| | Number of FP's receiving information via other CHM listservs | • ≈ 50% use others:<br>• 10% use Rio<br>• combined 40% use bioplan, Bionet, IREX, Bio-Excel, etc. |

| Objective | Criteria | Baseline (1999) |
|---|---|---|
| | Breakdown of information requested from CHM nodes | • 80% request general biological diversity info/advice<br>• 70% policy/ legislation info<br>• 50% biodiversity strategies/action plans<br>• < 40% country studies, newsletters, referrals to other studies, other info. |
| 6.1.3 Quality | Overall quality of CHM information | • 20% of those surveyed reported a need to improve information content |
| 6.1.4 Speed and Facility | Number of successful information searches by CHM nodes using the global CHM | • 10% of nodes report that all are successful<br>• 40% report "most"<br>• < 30% report "few"<br>• 2 nodes report "none" |
| | Match between 'breakdown of information requested from CHM nodes' and 'breakdown of information available from CHM nodes' | • well matched |
| | Internet/computer compatibility issues | • 20% of those surveyed reported compatibility/access challenges/problems<br>• 25% requested improvements to Information exchange process |
| | Perceived information handling capability | • 20% of locals surveyed reported a need to improve information handling<br>• 13% reported a need to improve IT infrastructure<br>• 18% of regions reported a need to improve information exchange criteria and protocols |
| 6.1.5 User Responsiveness | | • Not specifically asked |
| 6.1.6 Integration. | | • Not specifically asked |
| 6.1.7 Volume | Breakdown of information available from CHM nodes | • 80% supply policy/ legislation info.<br>• 70% general biological diversity info/advice<br>• 55% referrals to other sources<br>• 55% country studies<br>• 45% newsletters<br>• > 20% other info. |

## 3. Network Development.  Development of the CHM Focal Points and their partners.

| Objective | Criteria | Baseline (1999) |
|---|---|---|
| 7.1.1  Establishment of Focal Points | Number of full-functioning Focal Points | • 137 of 176 Parties<br>• 92 have e-mail<br>• 38 have websites |
| | Startup funding received | • 63 of 64 organizations applying to GEF have received startup assistance |
| 7.1.2  Leverage<br>7.1.3  Duplication of Effort Avoided | Number of partnerships | • Not specifically asked<br>• 30% of nodes work with <6 international partners<br>• 55% of nodes work with 6-20<br>• 15% work with >20 |
| | Perceived need for partnerships | • 25% of local respondents cited a need to improve partnerships<br>• 38% of regional respondents cited a need to networking/ info sharing |
| 7.1.4  Awareness and Use of the CHM<br>7.1.5  Capacity Building<br>7.1.6  Sustained Funding of CHM Focal Point Development | Number of Focal Points with promotion strategies<br><br>Number of Focal Points with long term funding strategies | • Not specifically asked<br>• Use - See 6.1.2<br>• See 5.1.2<br>• 33% have strategies |

# 9. Funding Issues

Ongoing investments will be required to develop and sustain the operations of the CHM's nodes at all levels.  It may be difficult to quantify the overall return on these investments.  However many biodiversity initiatives world-wide require the sorts of cooperation and information availability that is supported by the CHM, or could be implemented more cost-effectively though its use.  The proponents of these initiatives, who are potential 'users' of the CHM, should be considered as potential CHM funders as well.  Just as the Parties to the Convention must support the CHM as a necessary foundation for implementing the Convention, other actors world-wide must also come to support the CHM as a critical tool for implementing their own initiatives and achieving their own goals.

The following approaches will be used to obtain the necessary funding for CHM nodes at all levels.

- Ask COP to direct each Party to the Convention to implement its CHM node, with an ongoing staffing level equivalent to at least one full-time, dedicated person per year.  Where possible this commitment should be accompanied by an adequate budget to cover technical and other expenses (guidelines to be determined).

- Ensure that start-up incentives are provided for developing countries, through GEF and other sources

- Ensure that staged funding is provided for enabling activities such as the exploration, formulation, and development of funding proposals that match CHM priorities.

- Require all CHM nodes to produce long term funding strategies for supporting their activities. A range of funding sources, in addition to national governments and GEF, should be considered.

- Investigate the potential role of business in helping to fund the CHM.  Possible mechanisms include: sponsorship of specific CHM projects of interest, fees for listing large businesses in the "collaboration promotion mechanism for institutions and experts, and service and technology providers", and fees for advertising on CHM web sites.  Note however that there is an associated risk that this could unduly influence the way that the CHM is structured and operated (see threat 3 in section 1.2).  How private sector support is used will be critical to the future of the Convention.

- Involve potential funders more closely in CHM planning processes and workshops.

- Provide capacity building and ongoing support on "how to promote the CHM to key decision makers.  This should involve:
    - workshops and guidelines,
    - the compilation of testimonials on benefits from using the CHM, and
    - the compilation of funding success stories and lessons learned (see 6.2.1).

- Identify and prioritize CHM user needs (see 6.2.1).  Then approach relevant funders to contribute to funding pools for supporting projects / CHM enhancements that meet those needs (see 6.2.2).

- Ask COP to set and provide an annual budget for the CHM Secretariat node that is adequate to cover its basic ongoing operations and the usual levels of enhancements required by CHM-related COP decisions.  COP decisions requiring significantly more activity from the CHM should be accompanied by corresponding additional funding, including staff resources.

- As it is a delicate matter for the Secretariat to pursue additional funding from the Parties, the IAC should take a leadership role in facilitating access to such funding, for example from GEF.

# 10. Next Steps

Over the next three years, priority should be given to the following areas.

- Describe, demonstrate and communicate the role and value of the CHM. There have been a number of important accomplishments through the Pilot Phase which highlight the value of the CHM.  However, questions remain regarding what the CHM "is in business to do", how it works, who is involved, how it fits with other international initiatives related to biodiversity, and why it is something that should be invested in.

  All Parties to the Convention need to be aware of the global CHM network and how it can help their efforts in support of the objectives of the Convention.  More broadly, all key groups of potential CHM users and supporters (key CHM audiences) need to be aware of it and how it can further their own efforts and interests.

  Once this Strategic Plan has been ratified, a 'plain language' brochure should be produced, targeted at these key CHM audiences, that clearly describes, demonstrates and communicates the role and value of the CHM. (See section 7.2.6.)

- Create mechanisms of mutual support for users of the CHM.  Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity depends on collaboration – countries and partners working together, learning together, and sharing their expertise, knowledge and experiences.  Mechanisms are required to support this collaboration. Priorities include:
    - a set of standards and guidelines for information management and exchange that addresses issues of standardization and interoperability (see section 6.2.1);
    - an operational model for implementation of CHM National, Regional, Subregional and Thematic Focal Points. (see section 7.2.1);
    - the development of procedures for linking the CHM more closely with related cooperation and information networks and, more broadly, with the many other Conventions and international initiatives which can support implementation of the Convention (see sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.3);
    - the development of criteria and procedures for the full involvement of other CBD stakeholders (such as international businesses and non-profit organizations) as Thematic Focal Points or TFP partners;
    - expansion and enhancements of the CHM that address those issues and capabilities required to support COP's upcoming work schedule;
    - mechanisms for identifying additional needs and priorities of countries and partners working to implement the Convention (see sections 5.2.1 and 6.2.2);
    - mechanisms for identifying resources available to meet those needs, and for sharing expertise, experiences and success stories (see sections 5.2.1, 5.2.4 and 6.2.2); and
    - additional mechanisms for building local / national / regional capacity to implement the CHM and the Convention in response to user needs (see sections 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3 and 7.2.1).  Recently expressed training priorities include: required information technologies (e.g. computer hardware support), use of the CHM, and how to manage biodiversity.

- Plan for Long-Term Sustainability of the CHM.  The global CHM network needs to plan for its long-term sustainability, and access to resources – financial, technical, human and information – are essential to that sustainability.   Relationships between the CHM and international financing initiatives need to be fostered and strengthened, and creative partnership opportunities need to be explored (see sections 7.2.7 and 9).  In addition, a permanent location for the CHM Secretariat needs to be established. In COP decision 2/3, paragraph 5, the Parties agreed that "during the pilot phase … the Secretariat (SCBD) should act as a focal point" for the CHM.  Now that the pilot phase is over, consideration must be given to the permanent location of this focal point.

- Monitor and evaluate activities of the CHM. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of CHM activities is essential to ensure that the needs of CHM users are being met efficiently and effectively. This ongoing process should include:
- the proactive identification and filling of priority needs and gaps in information, skill sets, expertise and cooperation (see sections 5.2.1 and 6.2.2);
- building the capacity to respond to these, (see section 5.2.2, 5.2.4 and 6.2.3);
- collaboratively developing time-based targets for all objectives, and monitoring progress against those targets (for example by conducting one more Users' Survey before the end of the three year period. See section 8.)

This Strategic Plan outlines an ambitious number of objectives. Key performance indicators for the coming three years include:
- effective decision making, and overall contribution of the information exchanged (objectives 5.1.1 / 6.11),
- awareness and use of the CHM (objectives 6.1.2 / 7.1.5), and
- establishment of Focal Points and capacity building (objectives 7.1.1 and 7.1.5).

# Appendix One:  Glossary

| | |
|---|---|
| BCIS | Biodiversity Conservation Information System |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CHM | The CBD's Clearing-House Mechanism |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| GBIF | Global Biodiversity Information Facility |
| EIONET | European Environment Information and Observation Network |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| IABIN | Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network |
| NABIN | North American Biodiversity Network |
| NGO | Non-government organization |
| NFP | CHM National Focal Point |
| RFP | CHM Regional Focal Point |
| SBSTTA | Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice |
| TFP | CHM Thematic Focal Point |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Program |

# Appendix Two: List of CHM Focal Point Web Sites

|    | Country/Organization | Web Site |
|----|----------------------|----------|
| 1  | Argentina, CBD NFP | http://www.sernah.gov.ar |
| 2  | Australia, CHM NFP | http://www.environment.gov.au/life/chm/chm2.html/ |
| 3  | Austria, CHM NFP | http://www.ubavie.gv.at/umweltsituation/biodiv.index.htm |
| 4  | Belgium, CHM NFP | http://www.kbinirb.be/bch-cbd/home.htm |
| 5  | Bolivia, CHM NFP | http://coord.rds.org.bo/mdsma/dncb/micio.htm |
| 6  | Cameroon, CHM NFP | http://www.dainet.de/cameroon/news.htm |
| 7  | Canada, CHM NFP | http://www.cbin.ec.gc.ca |
| 8  | China, CHM NFP | http://www.sepaeic.gov.cn/biodiv/chm.htm |
| 9  | Chile, CHM NFP | http://www.conama.cl/bdm |
| 10 | CHM Secretariat FP | http://www.biodiv.org/chm |
| 11 | Colombia, CHM NFP | http://www.humboldt.org.co |
| 12 | Costa Rica | http://www.inbio.ac.cr |
| 13 | Democratic Republic of the Congo, CHM NFP | http://www.kbinirsnb.be.bch-cbd/congodr/cdr-eng/home.htm |
| 14 | El Salvador, CHM NFP | http://www.marn.gob.sv |
| 15 | Finland, CHM NFP | http://www.vyh.fi/fei/bdclearh/kansi.htm |
| 16 | Gabon, CHM NFP | http://members.spree.com/sip/biogabon/ |
| 17 | Germany, CHM NFP | http://www.dainet.de/bmu-cbd |
| 18 | Guatemala, CBD NFP | http://www.conama.gob.gt |
| 19 | Honduras, CHM NFP | http://www.sdnhon.org/miembros/serna/dibio |
| 20 | Iceland, CHM NFP | http://brunnur.stjr.is/interpro/umh/umh.nsf/pages/forsida |
| 21 | Iran, CHM NFP | http://www.abdnet.com/doe |
| 22 | Italy, NFP | http://wwwamb.casaccia.enea.it/chm-cbd |
| 23 | Japan, CHM NFP | http://www.biodic.go.jp |
| 24 | Korea, CHM NFP | http://www.biodiv.kribb.re.kr (English) |
| 25 | Luxemburg, CHM NFP | http://www.mev.etat.lu |
| 26 | Madagascar, CHM NFP | http://www.madonline.com.one |
| 27 | Mauritania, CHM NFP | http://www.kbinirb.be/bch-cbd/mauritania/mr-eng/home.htm |
| 28 | Mexico, CHM NFP | http://www.conabio.gob.mx |
| 29 | Mongolia, CHM NFP | http://www.pmis.gov.mm/mne |
| 30 | Morocco, CHM NFP | http://minenv.gov.ma |
| 31 | Namibia, CHM NFP | http://www.dea.met.gov.na/programmes/biodiversity |
| 32 | Netherlands, CHM NFP | http://www.agro.stoas.nl/nicbn |
| 33 | New Zealand, CHM NFP | http://www.biodiv.govt.nz |
| 34 | Norway, CHM NFP | http://www.chm.naturforvaltnig.no |
| 35 | Peru, CHM NFP | http://www.conam.gob.pe/chm |
| 36 | Philippines, CHM NFP | http://www.psdn.org/ph/chmbio.org.ph/ |
| 37 | Poland, CHM NFP | http://ciuw.warman.net.pl/alf/ios |
| 38 | Qatar, CHM NFP | http://www.mmaa.gov.qa |
| 39 | Russian Federation, CHM NFP | http://www.ihst.ru/org/rcmc |
| 40 | Switzerland, CHM NFP | http://www.admin.ch/buwal/e/themen/umwelt/vielfalt/index.htm |
| 41 | Trinidad and Tobago, CHM NFP | http://www.ema.cott |
| 42 | United Kingdom, CHM NFP | http://www.jncc.gov.uk |
| 43 | United States of America, CHM NFP | http://www.infointl.com/ |
| 44 | Venezuela, CHM NFP | http://www.marnr.gov.ve |