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**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON
REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONVENTION**

First meeting

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Item 4.3 of the provisional agenda*

**DRAFT UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM FOR
THE PERIOD 2005-2010***Note by the Executive Secretary*

Further to paragraph 12 of the note by the Executive Secretary on review of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/4), the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, the current draft of the updated strategic plan for the clearing-house mechanism, prepared in accordance with the request of the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 7 (a) of decision VII/23 A. It should be noted that, although the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to update the strategic plan to 2009, it has been updated to 2010 for consistency with the suggested recommendations contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on review of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/4). The final draft will be submitted for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, taking into account the comments of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/1.

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*Annex***DRAFT UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM****I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to implement the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Convention on the establishment of a clearing-house mechanism, operating under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation (decision I/3, paragraph 1). This central role of the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) was reaffirmed explicitly in decisions of the Conference of the Parties at each successive meeting ^{1/}and in the first strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism, which spanned from 1999-2004. ^{2/}

2. The three primary goals of the first strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism were:

(a) *Goal 1: Cooperation*—the promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation;

(b) *Goal 2: Information exchange*—the development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity; and

(c) *Goal 3: Network development*—the development of the clearing-house mechanism focal points and their partners.

The plan was structured to first guide the development of the necessary infrastructure and environment for technical and scientific cooperation (goals 2 and 3) and then begin promoting and facilitating it more explicitly (goal 1).

3. The implementation of the first strategic plan led to the development of a global network of 150 clearing-house mechanisms and a number of information exchange resources and tools. Once these resources and tools were developed, the clearing-house mechanism was able to focus more heavily on facilitating technical and scientific cooperation in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. In order to further develop and strengthen these relatively new efforts around technical and scientific cooperation and enhance the contribution of the clearing-house mechanism to the implementation of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the informal advisory committee, to update the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism for consideration by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. ^{3/}

4. The strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism has been updated taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the clearing-house mechanism identified: during the second independent review of the clearing-house mechanism; by Parties, other Governments and stakeholders; at regional workshops; and by the informal advisory committee. It aims to address the following key challenges:

(a) Clarifying the role of the clearing-house mechanism;

(b) Promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation at the national and regional levels;

(c) Promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation in support of activities related to the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, particularly with regard to technology transfer and communication, education and public awareness;

^{1/} See: paragraph 1, decision I/3, paragraph 4 (b), decision II/3, preamble, (a), decision III/4, paragraph 5, decision III/4, paragraph 10 (e), decision IV/2, paragraph 7, annex II (g)(ii), decision V/14, annex II (j), decision V/14, paragraph 2, decision VI/18, paragraph 5, decision VII/23.

^{2/} Strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/2), p. 7.

^{3/} See: decision VII/23, paragraph 7(a).

- (d) Developing non web-based technologies to facilitate cooperation, while improving existing and developing new web-based technologies;
- (e) Building technical capacity at the national level; and
- (f) Obtaining adequate financial resources to implement and maintain the clearing-house mechanism.

5. The strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism has also been updated to reflect the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention adopted in 2002 (decision VI/26), particularly goal 2 on improved capacity of Parties to implement the Convention, and to contribute to overcoming the information, capacity, and cooperation related obstacles to implementation identified in the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

II. MISSION

6. To promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders and contribute to the implementation of the Convention, its programme areas and cross-cutting issues and the achievement of the 2010 target.

III. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: The clearing-house mechanism is promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation.

- 1.1 The clearing-house mechanism contributes to the implementation of activities related to the programme areas, cross-cutting issues and the 2010 target.
- 1.2 The clearing-house mechanism facilitates the transfer of technology and technology cooperation.
- 1.3 The clearing-house mechanism facilitates cooperation among the three Rio conventions and other environmental agreements, organizations and initiatives.

Goal 2: The clearing-house mechanism is promoting and facilitating the exchange of information among Parties, other Governments and stakeholder.

- 2.1. The clearing-house mechanism makes information related to the Convention and Convention processes available via electronic and traditional means.
- 2.2. The clearing-house mechanism facilitates the repatriation of information on biodiversity.
- 2.3. The clearing-house mechanism assists Parties and other Governments in making data available in support of activities related to the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention and the 2010 target.
- 2.4. The clearing-house mechanism oversees the future technical development of the Biosafety Clearing-House per article 20 para. 1 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- 2.5. Parties have established clearing-house mechanism websites which adhere to common formats, protocols and standards, including metadata standards, as recommended by the clearing-house mechanism.

Goal 3: The clearing-house mechanism is fully operational with participation of all Parties and an expanded network of partners

- 3.1. All Parties have established and are further developing clearing-house mechanisms.
- 3.2. Relevant partners participate in an expanded clearing-house mechanism network.

- 3.3. Parties have established and use thematic networks in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention and the 2010 target.
- 3.4. The clearing-house mechanism contributes to the development of the global communication, education and public awareness network.

*Appendix***PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM TO 2010**

| Objective | Activities |
|---|--|
| Goal 1: The clearing-house mechanism is promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation | |
| 1.1. The clearing-house mechanism contributes to the implementation of activities related to the programme areas, cross-cutting issues and the 2010 target | <p>1.1.1. Organize joint technical hands-on workshops with partners and international thematic focal points on new information and web-based technologies to assist in the implementation of activities related to the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention</p> <p>1.1.2. Invite programme officers and other experts to participate in clearing-house mechanism workshops to better integrate the work of clearing-house mechanisms with work related to implementation of the Convention</p> <p>1.1.3. Invite Parties to contribute technical expertise to technical workshops and training courses</p> <p>1.1.4. Develop collaborative tools and systems, particularly web-based systems, to assist Parties in the implementation of cooperative activities and work</p> <p>1.1.5. Work with partners to develop tools to analyse information concurrently from the national reports of the biodiversity-related and Rio conventions</p> <p>1.1.6. Participate in activities related to the World Summit on the Information Society</p> |
| 1.2. The clearing-house mechanism facilitates the transfer of technology and technology cooperation | <p>1.2.1. Assist Parties and other Governments in the use of new information technologies and traditional technologies to promote transfer of technologies</p> <p>1.2.2. Promote technology transfer through participation in trade fairs, conferences, workshops, and other technology-related events</p> |
| 1.3. The clearing-house mechanism facilitates cooperation among the three Rio Conventions and other environmental agreements, organizations and initiatives | <p>1.3.1. Establish a technical working group among the Rio and other environmental conventions and develop electronic tools to facilitate communication and work</p> <p>1.3.2. Publish technical specifications through the CHM Toolkit to assist in making electronic information from the Rio and other environmental conventions interoperable</p> |

| Objective | Activities |
|---|---|
| Goal 2: The clearing-house mechanism is promoting and facilitating the exchange of information among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders | |
| 2.1 The clearing-house mechanism makes information related to the Convention and Convention processes available via electronic and traditional means | 2.1.1. Invest in the development of, and use, new information exchange tools and technologies to make Convention-related information accessible 2.1.2. Invest in the use of traditional information dissemination tools to ensure equitable access to Convention-related information |
| 2.2. The clearing-house mechanism facilitates the repatriation of information on biodiversity | 2.2.1. Publish information through the clearing-house mechanism on projects digitizing collections of museum specimen data 2.2.2. Promote open access to digitized collections of museum specimen data and the development of open distributed networks of data 2.2.3. Participate in projects aiming to enhance national capacities to digitize, access and use electronic collections of museum specimen data |
| 2.3. The clearing-house mechanism assists Parties and other Governments in making data available in support of activities related to the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention and the 2010 target | 2.3.1 Encourage Parties and other Governments to make data available in support of the 2010 target and to assist in the implementation of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. 2.3.2 Develop a registry of data and information made available by Parties 2.3.3 Make information available through the clearing-house mechanism on data custodianship and issues of intellectual property rights 2.3.4 National clearing-house mechanisms foster technical collaboration by: making information available on their websites on technical expertise, new information technologies, geographical information systems and data modelling 2.3.5 National clearing-house mechanisms contribute to the development of and publish information on resources required to assist Parties with achievement of the 2010 target 2.3.6 National clearing-house mechanisms make national databases available for use through the global clearing-house mechanism network 2.3.7 Enhance mechanisms for Parties, other Governments and stakeholders to contribute case studies and other information on best practices 2.3.8 Link with other information systems containing resources on best practices 2.3.9 Assist in the establishment of a global electronic library catalogue on biodiversity information |
| 2.4. The clearing-house mechanism oversees the future technical development of the Biosafety Clearing-House in line with Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety | 2.4.1. Assist with the development of national biosafety clearing-houses by contributing technical expertise in technical workshops and training sessions 2.4.2. Continue to disseminate information through traditional methods to ensure full participation by Parties in activities related to the Cartagena Protocol |

| Objective | Activities |
|---|--|
| 2.5. Parties have established clearing-house mechanism websites which adhere to common formats, protocols and standards, including metadata standards, as recommended by the clearing-house mechanism | 2.5.1. Continue to update and use the CHM Toolkit to assist Parties in the use of common formats, protocols and standards 2.5.2. Publish metadata standards more widely for use by Parties 2.5.3. Continue to update the controlled vocabulary for the Convention on Biological Diversity with new and evolving terminology for use by Parties to facilitate the interoperability of information, and use as descriptors in web page metadata records and library collections 2.5.4. Offer assistance to Parties and other Governments with the use of the controlled vocabulary for the Convention, subject and analytical cataloguing and authority control |
| Goal 3: The clearing-house mechanism is fully operational with participation of all Parties and an expanded network of partners | |
| 3.1. All Parties have established and are further developing clearing-house mechanisms | 3.1.1. Through their activities, national clearing-house mechanisms make a strong case for sustainable funding and support 3.1.2. Make available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism information on GEF funding, including a list of GEF-funded projects and enabling activities related to the clearing-house mechanism 3.1.3. Parties without clearing-house mechanisms use GEF funding to establish them 3.1.4. Parties with well developed clearing-house mechanisms participate in mentoring programmes to assist those parties with poorly developed clearing-house mechanisms 3.1.5. Further develop the CHM Toolkit to assist Parties and other Governments to develop and establish clearing-house mechanisms |
| 3.2. Relevant partners participate in an expanded clearing-house mechanism network | 3.2.1. Make available to Parties and other Governments information on the development and use of electronic and traditional communication tools 3.2.2. Assist Parties and other Governments with the use of electronic and traditional communication tools 3.2.3. Establish partnerships with existing networks 3.2.4. Publish information through the clearing-house mechanism on activities of partner networks |
| 3.3. Parties have established and use thematic networks in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention and the 2010 target | 3.3.1. Publish information on clearing-house mechanism partnerships to develop thematic networks (Global Invasive Species Programme, Article 8(j), etc.) 3.3.2. Publish information on existing thematic networks and their data resources 3.3.3. Add a component on issues related to networking in capacity building technical workshops and training sessions organized by the Secretariat |

| Objective | Activities |
|---|---|
| <p>3.4. The clearing-house mechanism contributes to the development of the global communication, education and public awareness network</p> | <p>3.4.1. Support the objectives of the communication strategy of the Convention through the development of information dissemination tools and systems</p> <p>3.4.2. Participate in the development of education modules to assist in the implementation of activities related to the programme of work on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues</p> <p>3.4.3. Develop training modules on the use of new information and web-based technologies for use in training sessions and technical workshops</p> <p>3.4.4. Support activities to create education networks devoted to biodiversity-related education and training</p> <p>3.4.5. Increase the use of electronic communication tools and web-based technologies that facilitate the sharing and dissemination of information on the clearing-house mechanism and its activities</p> <p>3.4.6. Publish a regular column on activities related to the clearing-house mechanism in the <i>CBD News</i></p> <p>3.4.7. Develop electronic interactive communication tools through the Convention website to promote and facilitate greater communication and interaction with stakeholders and civil society</p> <p>3.4.8. Develop electronic web-based spaces to assist with activities related to communication, education and public awareness and to promote civil society participation and interaction in activities related to the implementation of the Convention</p> |
