Publishing Checkpoints (CP)

Introduction to the ABSCH

The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH) (http://absch.cbd.int) has been developed as a tool to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. It serves as a means for sharing of information related to access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. In particular, it provides access to information made available by each Party and other stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Minimum Requirements

- ABSCH works best with the latest versions of popular internet browsers such as: Chrome, Firefox and Internet Explorer.
- A valid CBD account is required to register information on the ABSCH. An email address is the only requirement to sign up for a CBD account.

Records can be published in one or more of the six official UN languages. In the online submission form, you will see a blue language selection button to modify the languages of your submission. An additional text box for each selected language will appear for each field in the submission form.

Getting help

Help using the ABSCH is always available. The Secretariat is happy to provide technical support or answer any questions, and receive feedback on the use of the ABSCH. Contact us by email at absch@cbd.int.

A live chat help desk service has been installed on the website that allows immediate interaction with Secretariat staff for technical support and guidance.

For additional information you are invited to read the “About the ABSCH” (absch.cbd.int/about) section on the ABSCH website.

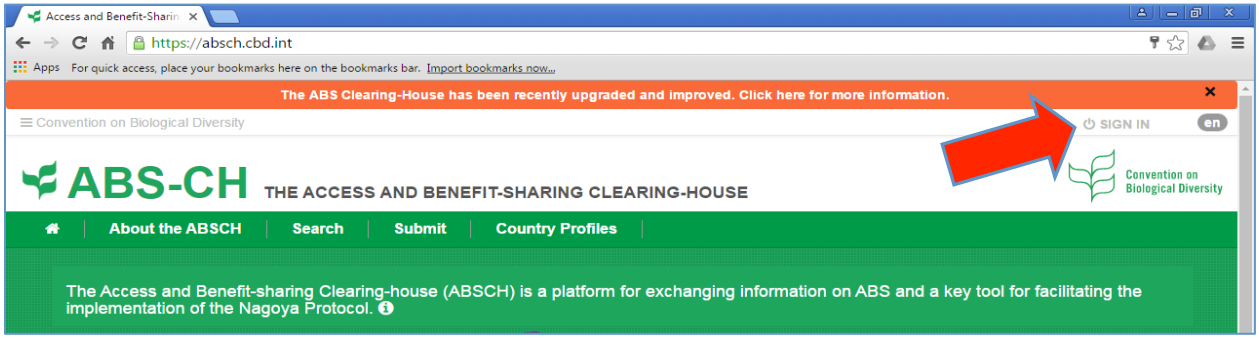
Introduction to Checkpoints

Designated checkpoints, are to collect or receive, as appropriate, relevant information related to: prior informed consent, the source of the genetic resource, the establishment of mutually agreed terms, and/or the utilization of genetic resources, as appropriate (Article 17, paragraph 1 (a)(i) of the Protocol). Such information collected by the checkpoint needs to be made available to the relevant national authorities, and in particular the Party providing prior informed consent, as well as to the ABS Clearing-House, as appropriate. In this way, checkpoints play a key role in the system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources set up by Article 17 of the Protocol. Having information about checkpoints on the ABS Clearing-House can help provide certainty to users and providers of genetic resources on the institutional mechanisms put in place for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources.

Step 1: Sign in to the ABSCH

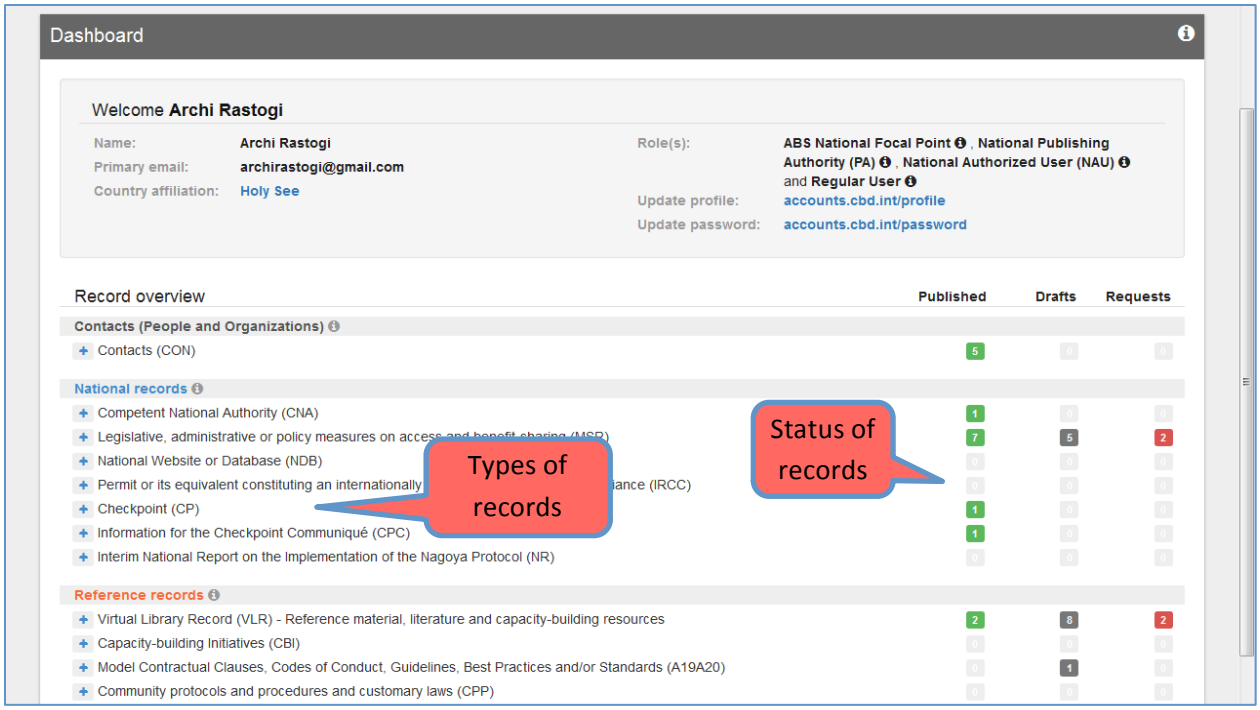
To sign in, click the "**SIGN IN**" link located at the very the top right corner of any page, and enter your email and password.

Note: If you don't have a CBD account, you can create one going to accounts.cbd.int. For help creating your account please refer to the guide: **Creating and managing your CBD Account**.



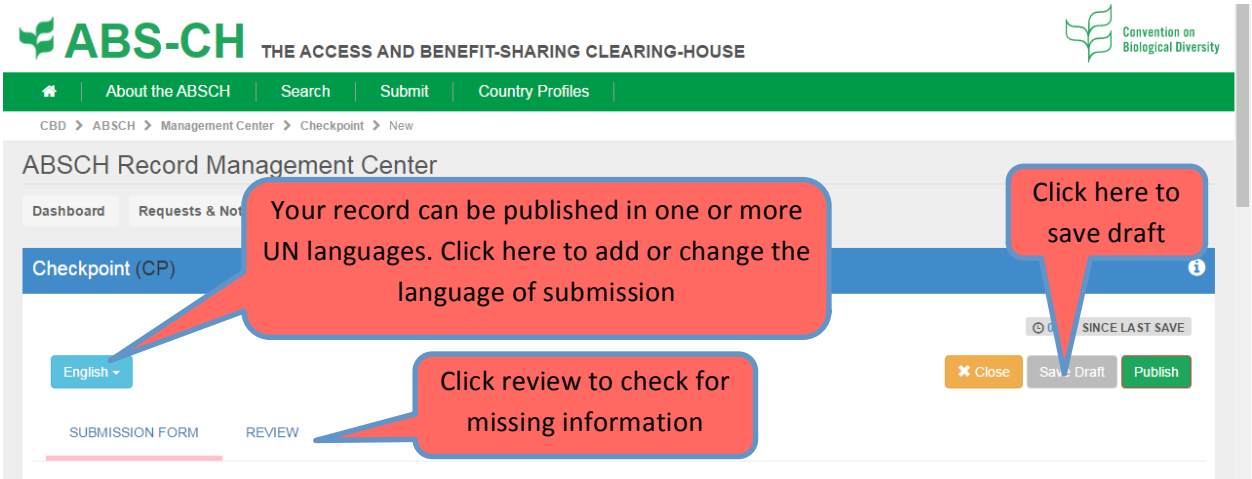
Step 2: Go to your dashboard

Once you are signed in, click on "**Submit**" in the main navigation bar and you will be taken to your Dashboard. The Dashboard provides an overview of the national records for your country. Click on the "**Checkpoints (CP)**" link to load the list page displaying all drafts, pending publishing requests and published Checkpoint records.

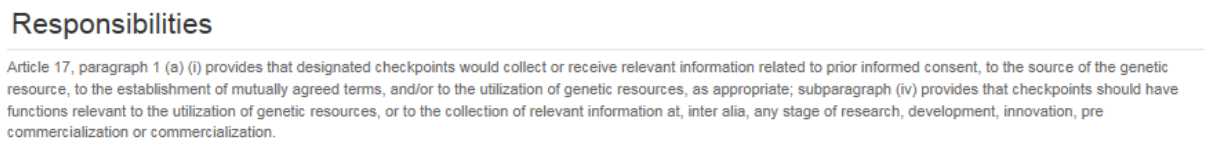


Step 3: Filling out the form

From the dashboard or the list page click the plus icon or “Add New” button to load the submission form. If you are editing an existing record, on the list page click on it the edit icon associated with that record. Please wait for the form to be fully loaded before filling out the form.



In the next part, you can provide a description of the responsibilities of the checkpoint. This information can help users of genetic resources and others to identify and clarify the role and functioning of the checkpoint in the collection of relevant information about the utilization of resources at, *inter alia*, any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialization or commercialization.

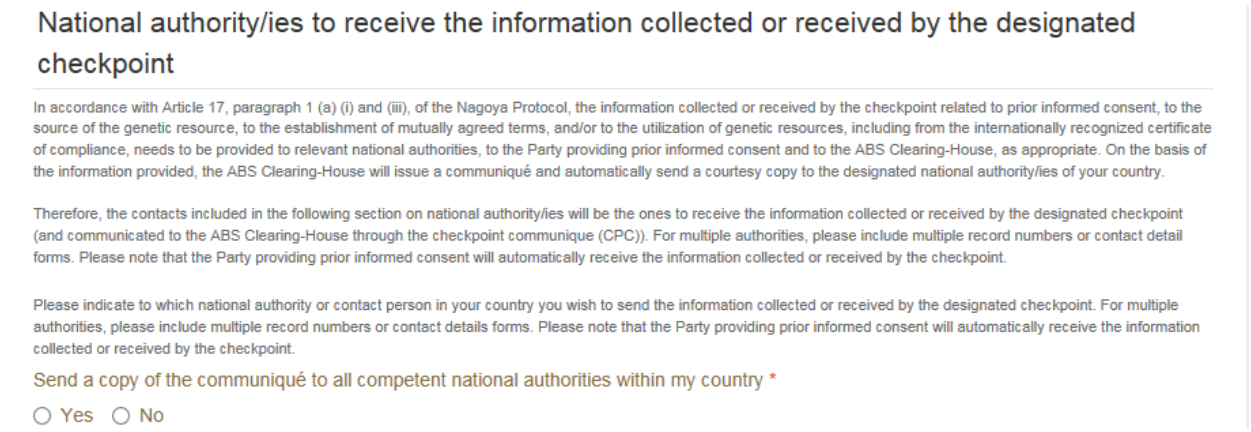


The next part of the submission form is to identify the national authority/ies to receive the information collected or received by the checkpoint when a checkpoint communiqué (CPC) is published from this checkpoint.

For example a patent office may be designated as a checkpoint in terms of implementation of Article 17 of the Protocol, but your country may decide that the national focal point or competent national authority/ies or any other authority receives all the checkpoint communiqués. The authority/ies receiving the checkpoint communiqué could follow up on the use of genetic resources within their jurisdiction and could then play a role in implementing Article 15 of the Protocol, including by:

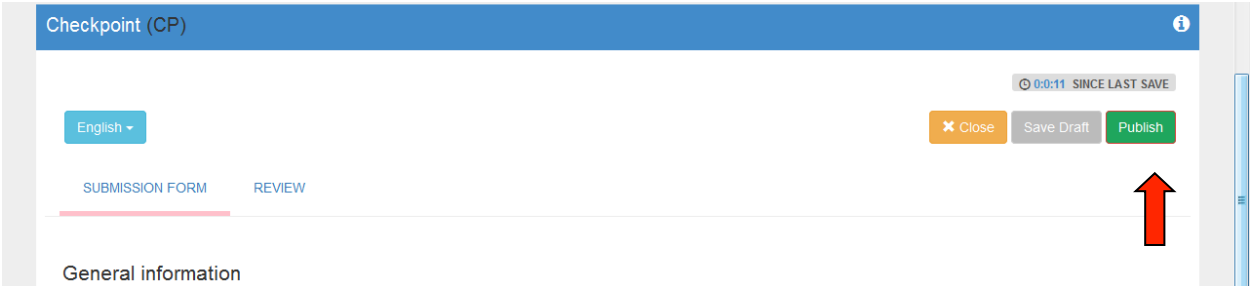
- Taking measures to provide that genetic resources utilized within its jurisdiction have been accessed in accordance with the ABS measures of the Party providing the genetic resources;
- Taking appropriate, effective and proportionate measures to address situations of non-compliance with measures adopted
- Cooperating in cases of alleged violation of domestic ABS measures.

You may choose to send the checkpoint communiqué to all competent national authorities of your country as well as indicate any additional contacts to receive this information. Please ensure that your desired contacts are saved in the list of national contacts. If your desired contact is not on the list, you can save the draft checkpoint, publish the national record, and come back to update the checkpoint with the appropriate contacts.



The final section refers to Additional Information and Notes. Please fill this section in if you have any additional information or personal notes for future reference. Please do not enter any confidential information in any of the fields.

Once you have completed the form, if you are a National Authorized User, you can click "**Request Publication**" to send a request to the Publishing Authority of your country to verify and approve your submission. If you are a Publishing Authority, you can directly click "**Publish**" and make the record immediately publically available online.



The status of your record will change from 'Draft', to 'Pending approval' or 'Published'. This may take a few seconds to update and you can click on 'Refresh' to see whether the status has changed. Once your record has been published, you will also receive an email indicating that your record has been published. You can also use the search to find your record and verify that it has been published correctly.