Ref.: SCBD/SPS/AS/MPM/MW/87278 5 June 2018

R E M I N D E R N O T I F I C A T I O N

Submission of information requested in decision BS-VI/3 on Capacity Building (Article 22)

Dear Madam/Sir,

Reference is made to notification 2018-036, dated 9 April 2018, inviting Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities to submit information regarding the status of implementation of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-building for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including a summary of the results of the activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned. Submissions should refer to activities held since the adoption of the Framework and Action Plan at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 6).

The information contained in the submissions will be an important factor in assisting Parties to develop the upcoming post-2020 capacity-building strategy for the Convention and its Protocols. The information will be synthesized and presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties, with a view to reporting on the status of implementation of the Framework and Action Plan.

Parties are reminded to submit such information to the Secretariat as soon as possible but no later than **30 June 2018**. Submissions may be sent online through the Biosafety Clearing-House at http://bch.cbd.int/managementcentre/edit/submission.shtml or via e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int using the template accessible in the annex to this notification.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, BCH Focal Points, relevant partner organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities organizations

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Annex

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

NOTE: Please enter text in column C, including a summary of the results of the activities undertaken, good practices and/or lessons learned, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate. Please only write where relevant, leaving cells blank where no relevant activities were undertaken.

Focal area 1: National biosafety frameworks **Operational objective 1** To further support the development and implementation of national regulatory and administrative systems.		
Outcomes • National biosafety frameworks developed and implemented; • Functional national biosafety systems.		
A. Results/Outputs	**B. Planned Activities**	**C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**
(a) National biosafety policies, laws and regulations in place and being implemented. (b) National institutions and administrative systems for handling LMO applications in place (c) Standard operating procedures for handling LMO applications in place (d) Provisions made in the national annual budgets for operationalizing the	1.1 Development and implementation/ enforcement of national biosafety policies and laws and the implementing regulations or guidelines	-Biosafety Act, 2006, (Act no.7, 2006), Biosafety Regulations 2016, no. 6116, - Biosafety Guidelines (Contained Use of GMOs Guidelines, Field Trials Guidelines, Environmental release of GMOs Guidelines, Placing genetically modified food or feed on the market Guidelines, Public Notification guidelines, Biosafety Inspection procedures). -Biosafety Administrative procedures, Work Instruction for handling applications. -Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines. -Development process of these documents involved stakeholders consultation and this formed part of public awareness platform.

national biosafety system (e) Trained staff in place to administer the national biosafety system (f) Biosafety is mainstreamed into broader development plans and sectoral policies and programmes, including the national biodiversity strategies and action plans		The guidelines and procedures will guide the process for dealings with GMOs
	1.2 Development of a best practice guide on: (i) Implementation of national biosafety frameworks;	Biosafety Regulations 2016, no. 6116 allows for the implementation of the Biosafety Act, 2006 (Act No. 7 of 2006). Biosafety Guidelines and Administrative procedures.
	(ii) Enforcement of national biosafety laws and regulations;	Competent Authority Established. Agreement established between different national regulatory Agencies and Ministries.
	(iii) Establishment and management of administrative systems; and	Establishment of the Institutional mechanism. Administrative procedures for handling application under the Biosafety Act, 2006 has been developed. The procedure has helped in the development of a work instruction which identified overlaps and gaps in the administrative process of handling application. Further, the work instruction stipulates the roles of all involved in handling applications. A quality management system has been developed. This system allows for the efficient implementation of the administrative system
	(iv) Mainstreaming of biosafety into relevant policies/plans	-Biosafety activities are mainstreamed in the Namibian Second National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2013 - 2022. -Biosafety activities are incorporated into the Draft National Health regulations.
	1.3 Development of training modules based on elements of the above guide	Biosafety, Bioethics and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) course at the University of Namibia

	1.4 Organization of training of trainers workshops on the elements of the best practice guide responsible for administering the biosafety regulatory systems	Training of trainers workshops conducted, ongoing.
	1.5 Development and/or implementation of an electronic system for: (i) handling of notifications and	Work Instruction for handling applications developed stipulating the roles of all involved in handling applications. Non-electronic system.
	(ii) registration of applications and approvals/decisions taken	Work Instruction for handling applications developed stipulating the roles of all involved in handling applications.
	1.6 Organization of training courses and on-the-job training programmes for personnel	Institutional Personal Development Plan established.
Focal area 2: Risk assessment and risk management **Operational objective 2** To enable Parties to evaluate, apply, share and carry out risk assessments and establish local science-based capacities to regulate, manage, monitor and control risks of living modified organisms (LMOs).		
Outcomes • Resources, including human resources, and the administrative mechanisms required to assess risks of LMOs are available; • Training materials and technical guidance on risk assessment and risk management developed and used by Parties; • Infrastructure and administrative mechanisms established for the management of risks of LMOs at national, subregional or regional levels.		
A. Results/Outputs	**B. Planned Activities**	**C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**
(a) Parties have trained experts in fields relevant for risk assessment and risk management	2.1 Establishment of institutional arrangements (e.g., technical and advisory committees or other arrangements) for conducting or reviewing risk assessments	The Biosafety Council, Registrar, Secretariat and Biosafety Unit has been established.
(b) Guidance on risk assessment and risk	2.2 Organization of training-of-trainers workshops on risk assessment and risk management	Several trainings on Risk Assessment conducted in different fora.

management of LMOs readily available and being used by Parties (c) Local experts conducting risk assessments and/or risk assessment audits as part of decision-making regarding LMOs (d) Parties submitting risk assessment summaries to the BCH (e) Baseline data on biodiversity relevant for risk assessment and risk management available (f) Parties have the necessary infrastructure for risk assessment and risk management (g) Parties using science-based risk assessment methods (h) Parties have LMO monitoring programmes based on defined protection goals, risk hypotheses and relevant assessment endpoints	2.3 Development of guidance documents on risk assessment and risk management.	-Biosafety regulations. Drafted -Risk Assessment Guidelines.
	2.4 Development or strengthening of technical infrastructure for risk assessment and risk management	Various workshops were organized to increase competence in risk assessment approaches (process vs. product based including risk evaluation and review methodologies. Biosafety Council members, Biosafety Secretariat and implementing ministries and agencies were trained.
	2.5 Conducting scientific biosafety research relating to LMOs	None
	2.6 Review of existing data and/or conducting new research to acquire data on biodiversity for specific ecological areas (e.g., botanical files, consensus documents, national inventories, etc.) relevant to risk assessment and risk management	None
	2.7 Establishment and maintenance of user-friendly databases to facilitate easy access to data on biodiversity relevant for risk assessment and risk management	National BCH Portal established.
	2.8 Development of LMO monitoring frameworks and programmes, including post-release monitoring of LMOs	Contained Use Guidelines and Registration of Facilities, Field Trials, Environmental release of GMOs, Placing genetically modified food or feed on the market, Biosafety Inspection, Biosafety Administrative forms and checklists has been developed
	2.9 Training of scientists, phytosanitary officers, inspectors and other relevant officials on LMO monitoring, enforcement and emergency response	Training of scientists, inspectors, phytosanitary officers, Custom officials and other relevant officials on LMO monitoring, enforcement and emergency response has taken place.

Focal area 3: Handling, transport, packaging and identification

Operational objective 3

To develop capacity for handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms.

Outcomes

- Customs/border control officials and other officials are able to enforce the Protocol's requirements related to handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs;
- Personnel are trained and equipped for sampling, detection and identification of LMOs.

A. Results/Outputs	B. Planned Activities	C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned
(a) National systems for implementing the Protocol's requirements on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs in place and are operational (b) National systems, including standard operating procedures, for detection and identification of LMOs in place (c) Local experts able to detect and identify LMOs in shipments (d) Capacity for verification and certification of documentation accompanying LMO shipments at the points of entry in place (e) Certified LMO testing facilities established at national and (sub)regional	3.1 Establishment of national systems for implementing the Protocol's requirements on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs	Establishment of the Competent Authority. Establishment of the Biosafety Council Establishment of Inspectorate Services Establishment of the National GMO Testing Laboratory Development of national regulations, guidelines, and procedures. All these national systems collaboratively ensure effective implementation of the Protocol's requirements.
	3.2 Development of national systems to implement international rules and standards for sampling and detection of LMOs to facilitate mutual recognition of LMO identification results within and between countries	Establishment of Inspectorate Services Establishment of the National GMO Testing Laboratory Development of internationally benchmarked standard operating procedures, test methods and sampling protocols ensures that there is mutual recognition of LMO identification results within and between countries.
	3.3 Establishment of mechanisms for auditing the efficacy of the national systems for handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs	Contained Use of GMOs Guidelines, Field Trials Guidelines, Environmental release of GMOs Guidelines, Placing Genetically Modified Food or Feed on the Market Guidelines, Public Notification guidelines, Biosafety Inspection procedures, Biosafety

levels (f) Systems for traceability and labelling of LMOs in place (g) Regional and subregional networks of laboratories for LMO detection and identification established		Administrative procedures, Work Instruction for handling applications has been developed to guide the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs at every stage.
	3.4 Organization of national and (sub)regional training workshops on LMO documentation and identification requirements for customs and border control officials and other relevant stakeholders	National training workshops held in all 14 regions and customs and border control officials and other relevant stakeholders formed part of these workshops. The NCRST has entered in an agreement with AMTA for documentation and identification at the ports of entries.
	3.5 Development of standardized forms and checklists on identification requirements for use in verification of the documentation accompanying LMO shipments	Application forms and checklists for Registration of a GMO Contained Use Facility, GMO Contained Use Permit, Permit to conduct a GMO Field Trial, a GMO Environmental Release Permit and Placing on The Market of Genetically Modified Food or Feed has been developed. These forms will assist applicants in providing the right information needed to assess their GMO applications.
	3.6 Development of methodologies and protocols for sampling and detection of LMOs and/or adapting existing ones	A sample collection protocol has been developed Standard Operating Procedures and Testing Methods are in draft format. The sample collection protocol has guided scientists and inspectors in sampling for different products that can be GMOs.
	3.7 Organization of trainings for local scientists and laboratory technicians in LMO detection and analysis	Local scientists trained in LMO detection and analysis This training helped increase laboratory staff competence levels on the adopted laboratory practices and safety standards for various safety levels. Benchmarking visits to established laboratories were done by NCRST staff

	3.8 Establishment of infrastructure for detection and identification of LMOs, including accredited laboratories	Establishment of the National GMO Testing Laboratory The establishment of the laboratory is crucial in ensuring that detection and identification of LMOs.
	3.9 Establishment of (sub)regional networks of laboratories for LMO detection	None
Focal area 4: Liability and redress **Operational objective 4** To assist Parties to the Protocol to establish and apply rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage resulting from the transboundary movements of living modified organisms, in accordance with the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.		
Outcomes • Institutional mechanisms or processes identified or established to facilitate the implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.		
A. Results/Outputs	**B. Planned Activities**	**C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**]
(a) Existing national policies, laws and administrative systems identified and used, and/or amended, to implement the Supplementary Protocol requirements (b) Guidance available and being used by competent authorities in the discharge of their responsibilities under the Supplementary Protocol (c) National capacity for determining appropriate	4.1 Analysis of existing national policies, laws and institutional mechanisms to determine how they address or could address the requirements of the Supplementary Protocol	The regulation for Liability and Redress still need to be formulated. The consultants (Namibian and Non-Namibian) has been identified. This will assist in establishing rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress relating to LMOs and that response measures are taken in the event of damage resulting from living modified organisms or where there is sufficient likelihood that damage will result if timely response measures are not taken.
	4.2 Establishment of new, or amendment of existing, domestic legal and administrative frameworks to implement the requirements of the Supplementary Protocol	None

response measures in the event of damage developed (d) User-friendly databases/ knowledge management systems in place and being used to establish baselines and to monitor the status of biodiversity (e) Financial and other support being provided by the GEF, bilateral and multilateral donors and relevant organizations for the ratification and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol (f) Best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol available through the BCH	4.3 Development of guidance to assist competent authorities in discharging their responsibilities under the Supplementary Protocol	None
	4.4 Organization of training activities to strengthen the scientific and technical capacity of the competent authorities to be able to evaluate damage, establish causal links and determine appropriate response measures	None
	4.5 Establishment of databases and knowledge management systems to facilitate the establishment of baselines and monitoring of the status of biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels	National BCH Portal established.
	4.6 Strengthening national capacity to provide for administrative or judicial review of decisions on response measures to be taken by the operator in accordance with Article 5.6 of the Supplementary Protocol	None
	4.7 Compilation and exchange of information on experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol through the BCH	None
	4.8 Mobilization of financial and other support for ratification and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol	None

Focal area 5: Public awareness, education and participation

Operational objective 5

To enhance capacity at the national, regional and international levels that would facilitate efforts to raise public awareness, and promote education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.

Outcomes

- Parties have access to guidance and training materials on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs;
- Parties are enabled to promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation in biosafety.

A. Results/Outputs	B. Planned Activities	C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned
(a) Programmes for promoting public awareness are being implemented (b) Guidance materials and toolkits including methodologies and best practices for promoting public awareness, and promote education and participation in place and being used by Parties (c) Improved mechanisms for public awareness, and promote education and participation (d) Effective implementation of public awareness, and promote education and participation at national, regional and international level	5.1 Collection of information on legal frameworks and mechanisms put in place and actual experiences on public awareness, education and participation	National Public awareness Strategy developed. National BCH Portal established to collect information.
	5.2 Development and dissemination of training packages/online modules, guidance materials and other tools for different target groups	Awareness Biosafety/Biotechnology booklets, calendar, diary, T-shirts, caps and posters developed and printed to create awareness during roadshows, workshops, etc
	5.3 Organization of regional and national workshops on the implementation of the above guidance/toolkit in order to strengthen or establish national mechanisms for public awareness, education and participation, interlinking with complementary international agreements	Country wide awareness campaigns and information dissemination including road shows, shopping malls displays, expos, industrial shows display Consultative meetings with local artists on Biosafety/Biotechnology awareness Drama and Poetry were held
	5.4 Organization of training-of-trainers workshops for biosafety educators, communicators and other government and non-government personnel at national and (sub)regional levels	Training-of-trainers workshops for biosafety educators conducted,
	5.5 Establishment of mechanisms to inform the public about existing opportunities and modalities for participation	NCRST website Biosafety Clearing House Radio adverts TV adverts

		Newspaper adverts All these platforms are used to inform the public about existing opportunities and modalities for participation
	5.6 Establishment of national biosafety websites, searchable databases and national resource centres	Biosafety Clearing House developed. The website allow for access of information with regards to GMOs
	5.7 Development and implementation of biosafety public-awareness programmes	Country wide awareness campaigns and information dissemination including road shows, shopping malls displays, expos, industrial shows display programmes developed
Focal area 6: Information-sharing **Operational objective 6** To ensure that the BCH is easily accessed by all established stakeholders, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.		
Outcomes • Increased access to information in the BCH and sharing of information through the BCH by users in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; • Tools to facilitate implementation of the Protocol are easily accessible through the BCH; • Information on the BCH is easily accessible to stakeholders, including the general public.		
A. Results/Outputs	**B. Planned Activities**	**C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**
(a) Parties able to register mandatory information in the BCH (b) Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders are able to post non-	6.1 Establishment/maintenance of national and regional infrastructure for accessing the BCH	A national Biosafety Clearing house website was launched in October 2016 maintained by the NCRST http://bch.ncrst.na/ The website allow for access of information with regards to GMOs

mandatory information to the BCH (c) Improved coordination and sharing of experiences on the BCH at national, (sub)regional, and global levels (d) Increased awareness and capacity of relevant stakeholders and general public to access information through BCH (e) National systems set up to gather, manage and upload onto the BCH all the information required under the Protocol	6.2 Development of national and (sub)regional systems for gathering/managing information for submission to the BCH	Appointment of BCH Focal Point Appointment of National Authorized Users
	6.3 Creation of national websites using, as appropriate, AJAX and Hermes tools	National BCH Portal established.
	6.4 Organization of BCH training for specific target groups, using the BCH Regional Advisors' network	Training on effective data management on BCH was carried out for the Biosafety Council and Biosafety Unit, government representatives, industry, importers, producers, distributors, researchers, farmers and farming organizations outreach systems, major food and feed companies where appropriate, NGOs and civil society, and print and broadcast media On going workshops for particularly those that will update and use the BCH as a means of fulfilling the national obligations set forth in the protocol and on how the information available in the BCH can best be utilized.
	6.5 Enhancement of cooperation between relevant international organizations on the further development and population of the BCH to maximize use of existing resources, experiences and expertise and to minimize duplication of activities	Enhancement through UNEP-GEF Small Scale Funding.
	6.6 Organization of training for information management experts on the BCH and putting in place mechanisms to facilitate use of the BCH by various stakeholders	Training on effective data management on BCH was carried out for the Biosafety Council and Biosafety Unit, government representatives, industry, importers, producers, distributors, researchers, farmers and farming organizations outreach systems, major food and feed companies where appropriate, NGOs and civil society, and print and broadcast media Appointment of the BCH Focal point and BCH National

		Authorized Users
	6.7 Establishment of mechanisms to enable countries to monitor the use of the BCH at the national level and to address gaps	Appointment of the BCH Focal point and BCH National Authorized Users The BCH website is updated regularly http://bch.ncrst.na/. This ensures that latest and relevant information is available
	6.8 Continuation of the BCH capacity-building projects at national and (sub)regional levels	On going workshops for particularly those that will update and use the BCH as a means of fulfilling the national obligations set forth in the protocol and on how the information available in the BCH can best be utilized.
	6.9 Enhancement of the BCH coordination mechanism at the national level, including interministerial and interagency collaboration with relevant stakeholders	Training on effective data management on BCH was carried out for the Biosafety Council and Biosafety Unit, government representatives, industry, importers, producers, distributors, researchers, farmers and farming organizations outreach systems, major food and feed companies where appropriate, NGOs and civil society, and print and broadcast media
Focal area 7: Biosafety education and training **Operational objective 7** To promote education and training of biosafety professionals through greater coordination and collaboration among academic institutions and relevant organizations.		
Outcomes • A sustainable pool of biosafety professionals with various competencies available at national/ international levels; • Improved biosafety education and training programmes; • Increased exchange of information, training materials and staff and students among academic institutions and relevant organizations.		
A. Results/Outputs	**B. Planned Activities**	**C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**

(a) Improved identification of training needs and target audiences (b) Information on the current situation with regard to existing biosafety-related education and training initiatives available (c) Relevant documentation (including real-life dossiers and full risk assessment reports) made available for biosafety education and education purposes (d) Compilations of existing biosafety training and education initiatives and trainers are made available (e) E-learning courses and other distance education and training programs on biosafety are available (f) Scientific and professional conferences and workshops support exchange of information and experiences (g) Biosafety regulators continuously trained through on-the-job and off-the-job training	7.1 Undertaking of periodic training needs assessments to ascertain the demand for biosafety education and training programme, and to identify target audiences	Institutional Personal Development Plan established.
	7.2 Development and/or strengthening of biosafety education and training programs at national and (sub)regional levels, including online and continuing education programs	Biosafety, Bioethics and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) course at the University of Namibia National capacity building workshops
	7.3 Exchange of information on existing biosafety education and training courses and programmes through the BCH	National Biosafety Clearing House http://bch.ncrst.na/
	7.4 Integration of biosafety into the curricula of existing relevant academic programs and courses	Biosafety, Bioethics and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) course at the University of Namibia
	7.5 Establishment of national and (sub)regional coordination mechanisms or networks for institutions involved in biosafety education and training to facilitate the sharing experiences and best practices	-Established agreements with Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (under which the National Competent Authority, NCRST is), the Ministry of Environmental and Tourism which is the CBD focal point and custodian of the Environmental Management Act, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry as a key ministry responsible for agricultural commodities, the Ministry of Trade, Industrialization and SME - Development as an advisory body to trade related issues and Ministry of Health and Social Services for food safety assessments and as custodians of the Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015 and Food Safety Policy. Working together with ABNE, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology ICGEB , GMASSURE: Assuring agricultural and food safety of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Southern Africa (GMASSURE) to facilitate the sharing experiences and best practices Regional Agricultural and Environmental Innovations

programmes		Network-Africa (RAEIN-Africa).
	7.6 Exchange of biosafety training and research materials among academic institutions	None
	7.7 Development of academic exchange and fellowship programs to facilitate the sharing of expertise, including through North-South and South-South cooperation	None
	7.8 Expansion and maintenance of the database in the BCH on existing biosafety training and education programmes/courses, academic staff/experts on relevant subjects and training materials.	Continuous update based on the training conducted.
	7.9 Strengthening the capacity of existing universities, research institutes and centres of excellence to deliver biosafety education and training	National capacity building workshops were held in all 14 regions and universities, research institutes and centres of excellence formed part of these workshops