



**Subregional Workshop
on national clearing-house mechanisms (CHM)
for the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council**



14-18 April 2019, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

***Role of a clearing-house mechanism and
national clearing-house mechanisms***

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**الهيئة السعودية للحياة الفطرية
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Strategic Plan and Decision X/15

Goal 1. Central CHM

Goal 2. National CHM

Goal 3. CHM Partners

Important points

VI. Support Mechanisms, Paragraph 22

- Collectively those involved in implementing the Convention have a wealth of experience and have developed many useful good practice cases, tools and guidance. There is additional useful information beyond this community.
- A biodiversity knowledge network will be developed including a database and network of practitioners, to bring together this knowledge and experience and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism to facilitate and support enhanced implementation of the Convention.
- National clearing-house mechanism nodes comprising networks of experts with effective websites should be developed and sustained so that in each Party, all have access to the information, expertise and experience required to implement the Convention.
- National clearing house mechanism nodes should also be linked to the central clearing-house mechanism managed by the Convention Secretariat, and information exchange between these should be facilitated.

To contribute significantly to the implementation of

- the Convention on Biological Diversity*
- and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*

through

- effective information services*
- and other appropriate means*

in order to promote and facilitate

- scientific and technical cooperation,*
- knowledge sharing,*
- and information exchange*

and to establish a fully operational network of Parties and partners

3 Goals representing 3 levels of implementation

1. *The central CHM provides effective global information services to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*
2. *National CHMs provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the NBSAPs*
3. *Partners significantly expand the CHM network and services*

→ CHM Mission, Goals and Objectives

→ In decision X/15

Summary: www.cbd.int/chm/strategy

→ In follow-up document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31

Summary: <https://www.cbd.int/chm/work>

Goal 1: The central CHM provides effective global information services to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

- 1.1. The CBD Secretariat has the capacity to sustain an effective central CHM.
- 1.2. A high-quality CBD website is available in all United Nations languages.
- 1.3. Effective information exchange services are fully operational.
- 1.4. The CBD Secretariat facilitates the development of a network of experts and practitioners among Parties and partners.
- 1.5. Guidance is available for Parties and partners to exchange information through the clearing house mechanism network.

Goal 2. National CHMs provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the NBSAPs.

- 2.1. All Parties have the capacity to sustain effective national CHMs.
- 2.2. High-quality national CHM websites are available.
- 2.3. National information is exchanged through the CHM network.
- 2.4. Parties collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network.
- 2.5. Partners and the CBD Secretariat have contributed to the development of national CHMs.

Objectives Activity Groups

Code	Group
Coor	National Coordination
Strat	National Strategy
Web	Web Content
Tech	Technical Aspects
Serv	Information Services
Coop	Cooperation
Work	Workshop

Objective 2.1: All Parties have the capacity to sustain effective national CHMs

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Coor

2.1.1. If not yet done, designate, as soon as possible, a **national focal point** for the CHM, as requested by paragraph 7 of decision II/3.

Coor

2.1.2. Identify a **national structure**, as appropriate, to coordinate the development of the CHM with participation of relevant biodiversity-related organizations and stakeholders.

Strat

2.1.3. Prepare a realistic national implementation **strategy** for the CHM, where appropriate, preferably as a component of the NBSAP, based on identified needs and anticipated resources.

Coor

2.1.4. Mobilize and allocate **resources** for strengthening the institutional capacity to implement the national CHM and for sustaining its operations.

Web

2.1.5. Define **roles and responsibilities** for collecting, reviewing and disseminating information, managing website content, and for outreach activities, where appropriate.

Tech

2.1.6. Identify, assess, and **adopt appropriate tools or services** that increase the capacity and sustainability of the national CHM in a cost-effective manner.

Objective 2.2: High-quality national CHM websites are available

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Strat

2.2.1. Prepare a web content **strategy** for the national CHM serving as a key means for the implementation and review of the NBSAP, including by providing information on implementation activities, scientific data, expertise, and technologies.

Web

2.2.2. If not yet done, establish a national CHM providing **basic information** on national contacts, and on biodiversity in the country.

Web

2.2.3. Identify relevant **content and information sources** at the national level and promote them through the national CHM, in line with the web content strategy.

Serv

2.2.4. **Maintain and improve the national CHM website** in terms of content, services, appearance, user-friendliness, usability and accessibility taking into account users' feedback.

Serv

2.2.5. Whenever appropriate and feasible, make the national CHM website available in various **national and local languages**.

Coor

2.2.6. Whenever appropriate and feasible, further develop the national CHM at the **sub-national or local level**.

Objective 2.3: National information is exchanged through the CHM network

Tech

2.3.1. Whenever possible, develop information **exchange mechanisms with relevant national sources** of biodiversity information, making use, whenever applicable and appropriate, of well-established open standards.

Tech

2.3.2. Whenever feasible and appropriate, make use of tools to **exchange information with the central CHM**.

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Objective 2.4: Parties collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network

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Coor

2.4.1. Undertake a national biodiversity **knowledge management** initiative that identifies knowledge needs and sources for the implementation of NBSAPs.

Strat

2.4.2. Ensure that there is a **repository to preserve key knowledge** on the implementation of NBSAPs.

Coor

2.4.3. Develop a **knowledge-sharing culture** to ensure that information and knowledge from various national sources is effectively provided and published on the national CHM.

Coor

2.4.4. Whenever possible, develop links between the national CHM and **existing networks**.

Serv

2.4.5. Encourage the use of the national CHM as a **tool to dialog** with the civil society, major groups and stakeholders in line with the national strategy for communication, education and public awareness.

Serv

2.4.6. Whenever possible, facilitate **international collaboration** initiatives, including scientific and technical cooperation, South-South or North-South cooperation.

Objective 2.5: Partners and the CBD Secretariat have contributed to the development of national CHMs

Work

2.5.1. Provide **guidance** to Parties on how to develop their national CHMs, taking into account a variety of implementation options.

Work

2.5.2. Organize **capacity-building workshops** to assist Parties in developing their national CHMs, including through organizations which are present and active at the national or regional levels, and based on the special capacity-building needs of developing countries and on the status of their national CHMs.

Coop

2.5.3. Encourage **collaboration initiatives**, including South-South and North-South cooperation, as well as regional networking to further develop national CHMs.

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3. Partners significantly expand the CHM network and services.

- 3.1. Partners can sustain their participation in the CHM.
- 3.2. High-quality regional and thematic CHM websites are available.
- 3.3. Partner information is exchanged through the CHM network.
- 3.4. Partners collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network.

- **National CHM is not (just) a website**
 - CBD National Focal Point support
 - Information collection and dissemination
 - Technical/Project focal point for Biodiversity Council, CBD and partners
 - Website is – the best – mechanism to collect/share information
- **There is no "correct national CHM website"**
 - Is your primary target audience internal or external?
 - What is the primary language of your country? Of your audience?
 - What is the hardest biodiversity information to discover about your country?
 - Projects? News? Events? Documents? English translations? AICHI target relevance?
- **National CHM is not about ownership of data**
 - Be the Google of Biodiversity, link to everybody
 - Be the bridge-builder (between internal data and internal/external partners)
 - Translation is a great bridge-builder service
 - Leverage global resources and interoperability
 - Data ownership is a last resort
- **Bioland is not a magic pill – but it can help**



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