



Convention on Biological Diversity

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WORKSHOP ON DETECTION AND
IDENTIFICATION OF LIVING MODIFIED
ORGANISMS FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA
Tunis, 5-9 March 2018

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. At their eighth meeting, in [decision BS-VIII/16](#), the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety requested the Executive Secretary to continue convening, in cooperation with relevant organizations, subject to the availability of resources, regional and subregional capacity-building activities, such as online training and face-to-face workshops in the fields of sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs), with a view to assisting Parties in fulfilling the requirements under [Article 17](#) and towards achieving the relevant outcomes of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020.¹
2. In their [decision VIII/3](#) on capacity-building, Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the priority capacity-building activities for supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, among which the organization of workshops on sampling, detection and identification of LMOs was identified as a priority area.
3. With support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea Biosafety Capacity Building Initiative, and in collaboration with the [National Gene Bank of Tunisia](#) and the Tunisian [Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment](#), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is organizing the Workshop on Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms for Francophone Africa, to be held in Tunis from 5 to 9 March 2018.
4. The objectives of the workshop are to provide theoretical and practical training on (a) sampling, detection and identification of LMOs in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and (b) laboratory methodologies used for the analysis of test samples, as well as to share experiences and assess national needs and gaps for the effective implementation of the relevant outcomes under the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol.
5. The workshop will be conducted in French only and will consist of classroom discussions and laboratory practices. Documents for the workshop will be posted at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CPDI-WS-2018-01>. Participants are requested to bring their own copies of the documents in electronic form, if possible, in order to minimize the environmental impact of the workshop.

¹ Available at <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/decisions/?decisionID=12329>.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

6. The workshop will be opened by a representative of the Government of Tunisia at 9 a.m. on Monday, 5 March 2018. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will make opening remarks on behalf of the Executive Secretary.

7. Participants in the workshop will be invited to introduce themselves and to provide a short summary of their experience and current activities related to the detection and identification of LMOs as well as their expectations for the workshop.

8. After the introductions by the participants, a representative of the Secretariat will explain the workshop objectives and expected outcomes and propose the provisional agenda and organization of work for the workshop (see annex) for adoption by the participants.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF BIOSAFETY AND THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

9. Under this agenda item, participants will review general concepts in biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including the following:

- (a) Relevant provisions under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- (b) Relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol;
- (c) Other international biosafety-related bodies and organizations;
- (d) Overview of the activities of the [Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms](#).

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

3.1 Overview of sampling at points of entry and for environmental monitoring

10. Under this agenda item, participants will be presented with a theoretical overview of the processes that take place for the collection of samples at points of entry, such as customs and border control points, and for environmental monitoring. This will include discussing the various tools and requirements needed for the implementation of a sound sampling strategy both at the border and for environmental monitoring for the submission of a representative sample to the laboratory.

3.2 Laboratory sampling and preparation of test samples

11. This session will provide an introduction to the theory and general principles of handling test samples for LMO detection and identification in a regulatory context. Key concepts, such as mass reduction techniques, preparation of samples from commonly encountered matrices, and considerations about test portions, will be discussed.

3.3 Procedures for the extraction and purification of DNA from test samples

12. During this session, theoretical and practical methodologies for extraction and purification of DNA from test samples will be presented. This will include an overview and discussion of the key steps during the DNA extraction process and their significance to the outcomes of the analysis. Considerations for approaching the extraction of DNA from commonly encountered matrices and troubleshooting will also be discussed.

3.4 Testing methods and analysis of results

13. Participants will be introduced to a number of methodologies and techniques that can be used to detect, identify and quantify LMOs. A theoretical overview of some of the more commonly used methodologies for the detection, identification and quantification of LMOs, including both protein- and DNA-based methods, will be introduced, and the advantages and limitations of each method will be covered.

14. Participants will be encouraged to discuss their own experiences with the various LMO detection and identification methodologies presented, as well as the challenges they encounter and any gaps in the capacity of their laboratories to fulfil the requirements of their countries' relevant biosafety regulations. In discussing their experiences, participants are also encouraged to consider the experiences of other countries in the region with regard to LMO detection.

3.5 Considerations on quality assurance and quality control

15. In this session, presentations will be made on the relevance of minimal performance criteria, the establishment of a quality assurance and quality control system (QA/QC) and standard operating procedures (SOP) with a view to maintaining laboratory proficiency.

16. Participants will be invited to take part in a round-table discussion on their current experiences with the implementation of their laboratory's QA/QC system, as well as discussing their challenges, needs and gaps in this area.

3.6 Reporting of testing results

17. Participants will discuss some of the elements that may be included in a report in order to communicate the laboratory's findings to the regulatory authority in a clear and concise manner. The discussion will focus on such elements as: (a) the context and objective of the testing; (b) a summary of the methodologies used in preparing and analysing the samples; (c) the results, including any challenges encountered; and (d) the conclusions of the analysis.

ITEM 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

18. Participants will be invited to draw conclusions from the workshop and make recommendations to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its ninth meeting. Participants may also raise other matters that could facilitate the detection and identification of LMOs at the national and regional levels.

ITEM 5. EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP

19. Participants will be invited to complete an evaluation of the workshop and propose suggestions for improvements.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

20. A draft report of the workshop will be presented by the Secretariat for review and adoption by the participants.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

21. The workshop is expected to close at 5 p.m. on 9 March 2018.

*Annex I***PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE WORKSHOP ON DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA****Monday, 5 March 2018**

9 a.m.	Opening of the workshop (agenda item 1)
Morning	Overview of biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (agenda item 2)
Afternoon	Introduction to the detection and identification of living modified organisms in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (agenda item 3)
	Overview of sampling at points of entry and for environmental monitoring (agenda item 3.1)
	Laboratory sampling and preparation of test samples (agenda item 3.2)

Tuesday, 6 March 2018

Morning	Procedures for the extraction and purification of DNA from test samples (agenda item 3.3)
Afternoon	Testing methods and analysis of results (agenda item 3.4)

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

Morning	Agenda item 3.4 (<i>continued</i>)
Afternoon	Agenda item 3.4 (<i>continued</i>)

Thursday, 8 March 2018

Morning	Agenda item 3.4 (<i>continued</i>)
Afternoon	Agenda item 3.4 (<i>continued</i>)

Friday, 9 March 2018

Morning	Considerations on quality assurance and quality control (agenda item 3.5)
	Reporting of testing results (agenda item 3.6)
Afternoon	Conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 4)
	Evaluation of the workshop (agenda item 5)
	Adoption of the report (agenda item 6)
	Closure of the workshop (agenda item 7)
