



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### Subsidiary Body on Implementation

#### Fourth meeting

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

#### Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols

### Draft work programme for the clearing-house mechanism (2024–2030)

Note by the Secretariat

#### Introduction

1. The present note contains, in its annex, the draft work programme for the clearing-house mechanism (2024–2030), prepared pursuant to paragraph 9 (f) of decision [15/16](#) of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting. The draft work programme has been prepared as described in document CBD/SBI/4/7. Elements of a draft recommendation by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on the clearing-house mechanism are also provided in document CBD/SBI/4/7.
2. This work programme builds on the previous work on the clearing-house mechanism as determined by the Conference of the Parties. 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 to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation (decision [I/3](#), para. 1). At its second meeting, in its decision [II/3](#), the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a pilot phase of the mechanism for the period 1996–1998.
3. Following an independent review of the pilot phase, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision [V/14](#), endorsed the implementation of a strategic plan for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 1999–2004 and a longer-term programme of work for the mechanism.<sup>1</sup> The strategic plan envisioned the clearing-house mechanism as the primary global cooperation and information network on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Among other things, the mechanism would promote and support cost-effective decision-making and the implementation of biodiversity-related initiatives, foster international cooperation, enhance the sharing of relevant technology, information and expertise; and promote linkages and synergies among global initiatives.
4. In its decision [VIII/11](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted an updated strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2005–2010 and a programme of work of the mechanism up to 2010. The updated strategic plan expanded the scope of activities, including the development of

\* CBD/SBI/4/1.

<sup>1</sup> [UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/2](#), [UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/3](#) and [UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/4](#).

non-web-based technologies to facilitate cooperation; the promotion of technology transfer through trade fairs, conferences, workshops, and other technology-related events; building of technical capacity at the national level; and contribution to the development of the global communication, education and public awareness network.

5. In its decision [XI/2](#), the Conference of the Parties welcomed the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.<sup>2</sup> The work programme envisioned, among other things, the development of a biodiversity knowledge network, including a database and network of practitioners and the development of national clearing-house mechanism nodes comprising networks of experts linked to the central clearing-house mechanism to facilitate access to the information, expertise and experience required to implement the Convention.

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<sup>2</sup> [UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3L](#).

## Annex

### Draft work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030

1. The work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2024–2030 is designed to support and facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>3</sup> and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Building upon the previous work programme for the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2011–2020, it aims to facilitate the means of implementation, especially technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building and development, knowledge management and communication,<sup>4</sup> and resource mobilization, as well as other programmes and action plans, including the gender plan of action,<sup>5</sup> the long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors, and the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities.<sup>6</sup>

2. The goals of the work programme are the following:

(a) Goal 1. *Promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.* The clearing-house mechanism will strengthen processes and services to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, including match-making initiatives, the development and strengthening of national capacities in line with the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and supporting the work of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, such as the regional and/or subregional centres and the global coordination entity;

(b) Goal 2. *Facilitate exchange of information.* The clearing-house mechanism will enable sustained and structured discovery, access to and exchange of data, information and knowledge through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and across global, regional, thematic and national information networks and the clearing-houses, in line with the knowledge management strategy of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) Goal 3. *Support planning, monitoring, reporting, and review.* The clearing-house mechanism will provide tools and strengthen processes and the national clearing-house mechanisms to support and facilitate the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the enhanced approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review;

(d) Goal 4. *Facilitate networking and collaboration.* The clearing-house mechanism will facilitate cross-sectoral interactions, networking, sharing of expertise and exchanges between Parties and partner organizations supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Convention and its Protocols.

3. The outcomes expected under each of the four goals, the strategic actions to achieve the outcomes, the key actors that will lead or contribute to the implementation of the strategic actions and the indicative delivery time frames are defined in the updated work programme.

4. The work programme will be implemented primarily by the Parties to the Convention and by the Secretariat, with the support of the global coordination entity and the regional and/or subregional support centres of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism, as well as global, regional and thematic organizations, in line with whole-of government and whole-of-society approach and other considerations for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contained in section C of the Framework.

<sup>3</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> Decisions [15/8](#), [15/14](#) and 16/--.

<sup>5</sup> Decision [15/11](#).

<sup>6</sup> Recommendation [12/2](#) of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Goals, outcomes and strategic actions of the work programme**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Strategic actions</i>	<i>Key actors</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
<b>1. To promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation</b>	1.1. Mechanisms and tools to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation at the global, regional and national levels are developed or strengthened.	1.1.A. Develop or strengthen collaborative platforms and tools <sup>7</sup> to promote technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. <sup>8</sup>	<i>Lead:</i> regional centres, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Parties, Secretariat	2025–2030
		1.1.B. Facilitate events <sup>9</sup> for collaboration and sharing of knowledge, best practices and lessons learned.	<i>Lead:</i> Global entity, regional centres, <sup>10</sup> organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Parties, Secretariat	2025–2030
		1.1.C. Facilitate the establishment or strengthening of communities of practice to enable the sharing of relevant experiences, expertise and know-how.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, Secretariat	2025–2030
		1.1.D. Establish or strengthen mechanisms to promote joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies and solutions.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, Secretariat	2025–2030
	1.2. Matchmaking between Parties with specific technical and scientific needs and other Parties or institutions able to provide the necessary support is facilitated.	1.2.A. Strengthen tools and processes to enable Parties and stakeholders to identify, prioritize and communicate their biodiversity-related technical and scientific needs and requests for assistance.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat, regional centres <i>Contributing:</i> Parties, organizations	2025–2030
		1.2.B. Take stock of expertise, tools, technologies, and other relevant technical and scientific assets that can be shared with Parties.	<i>Lead:</i> global entity <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, organizations, Secretariat	2025–2030
		1.2.C. Develop or strengthen tools and services, including online platforms <sup>11</sup> to facilitate matchmaking between Parties that need support with stakeholders that can provide it.	<i>Lead:</i> regional centres, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat	2025–2030

<sup>7</sup> The collaborative tools may include dialogues, round tables, forums, knowledge fairs, expositions, symposiums and conferences.

<sup>8</sup> Through traditional and digital channels, including the central portal of clearing-house mechanism, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, Biosafety Clearing-House, and national clearing-house portals.

<sup>9</sup> The events may include workshops, dialogues, round tables, forums, knowledge fairs, expositions, symposiums and conferences.

<sup>10</sup> This refers to the global coordination entity and the regional and/or subregional support centres established under the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism (decision 15/8).

<sup>11</sup> This would be made available through the central portal of clearing-house mechanism and national clearing-house mechanism portals.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Strategic actions</i>	<i>Key actors</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
		1.2.D. Identify, map, link and promote existing matchmaking services at the global, regional and national levels.	<i>Lead:</i> global entity <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, organizations, Secretariat	2025–2030
<b>2. To facilitate exchange of information</b>	2.1. The central portal of the clearing-house mechanism is providing effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the Framework.	2.1.A. Further develop the user workspace in the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism to enable Parties and relevant stakeholders to easily contribute information, keep in contact, share ideas, and work together.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations	2024–2026
		2.1.B. Further develop and implement the online submission system to enable Parties and relevant stakeholders to submit information related to their implementation of the Convention and of the Framework. <sup>12</sup>	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations	2024–2028
		2.1.C. Further develop and improve the user interface of the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism to make the data, information and knowledge available in the portal easily discoverable and accessible.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations	2024–2025
		2.1.D. Further develop tools to make the national clearing-house mechanisms and the information systems of partner organizations interoperable and to automatically display relevant information from the central clearing-house mechanism.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations	2024–2025
		2.1.E. Further develop data aggregation tools to harness information from the national clearing-house mechanisms and information systems of partner organizations.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations	2024–2026
		2.1.F. Implement other information services as requested by the Conference of the Parties.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat	2025–2030

<sup>12</sup> This includes invitations to submit views, nominate participants and to peer-review documents.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Strategic actions</i>	<i>Key actors</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
	2.2. Systems for exchanging, integrating and visualizing information are strengthened.	2.2.A. Further develop and enhance the Convention’s website, including its design, functionality, accessibility, and user-friendliness.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations	2025–2030
		2.2.B. Further develop and update templates for collecting, organizing and sharing information and metadata to standardize the structure and organization of the information.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations	2025–2030
		2.2.C. Further develop or modify controlled vocabularies, taxonomies and ontologies to facilitate information-sharing in a consistent and standardized manner at global, regional and national levels.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres	2024–2026
		2.2.D. Further strengthen data-sharing mechanisms, including the application programming interface, to facilitate interoperability of relevant information systems with the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House, and the national clearing house mechanism portals.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, Secretariat	2025–2030
		2.2.E. Strengthen data visualization tools, such as dashboards and interactive maps, to present complex information in easy-to-understand formats and to elicit actionable insight.	<i>Lead:</i> organizations, regional centres <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat	2024–2030
		2.2.F. Strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat to further develop and sustain the central clearing-house mechanism. <sup>13</sup>	<i>Lead:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Organizations	2024–2030
		2.2.G. Provide additional guidance and training to Parties and stakeholders to effectively use the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism to exchange information.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations, regional centres	2025–2030

<sup>13</sup> This includes all the tools and services that are required for technical and scientific cooperation, information exchange, knowledge management and monitoring towards implementation of the Framework.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Strategic actions</i>	<i>Key actors</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
		2.2.H. Facilitate the development or strengthening of regional, subregional and thematic clearing-house mechanisms.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations, regional centres	2025–2030
<b>3. To support planning, monitoring, reporting, and review</b>	3.1. Tools and mechanisms to facilitate and support planning, monitoring, reporting, and review of progress in the implementation of the Framework and of the Convention are developed or strengthened.	3.1.A. Further develop and operationalize the online reporting tool to enable Parties to report progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets of the Framework.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, organizations	2024–2026
		3.1.B. Further develop and operationalize the decision-tracking tool to track progress in the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, organizations	2025–2026
	3.2 National clearing-house mechanisms are strengthened and are effectively facilitating the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.	3.2.A. Prepare or update an implementation strategy for the national clearing-house mechanism as a component of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, organizations, regional centres	2025–2030
		3.2.B. Establish or strengthen institutional structures and processes for national clearing-house mechanisms <sup>14</sup> to support national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the monitoring of progress towards national and global targets.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, organizations, regional centres	2025–2030
		3.2.C. Strengthen systems for information exchange, including through the development of links and interoperability between the national clearing-house mechanism and the central portal, and other networks and databases.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, organizations, regional centres	2025–2030
		3.2.D. Promote the use of the national clearing-house mechanism as a tool to dialogue with relevant stakeholders in line with the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach	<i>Lead:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, organizations, regional centres	2025–2030

<sup>14</sup> This may include national focal points, multi-stakeholder coordination bodies, networks and systems, and inter-institutional steering committee with participation of relevant biodiversity-related organizations and stakeholders; and defining roles and responsibilities for collecting, reviewing and disseminating information, managing website content, and for outreach activities.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Strategic actions</i>	<i>Key actors</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
		3.2.E. Develop or strengthen the information infrastructure for national clearing-house mechanisms, including user interface design, interoperability services, vocabularies and taxonomies, metadata standards, common reporting formats and standards, aligned with standards of the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations, regional centres	2024–2026
		3.2.F. Further develop and strengthen national clearing-house mechanism portals using the Bioland tool or other solutions in response to the needs of users and relevant technological developments.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations, regional centres	2024–2026
		3.2.G. Publish and promote toolkits, technical specifications, guidelines and training material to assist Parties in the use of new information technologies and systems.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations, regional centres	2024–2030
		3.2.H. Develop or strengthen capacity to use modern digital technologies, including natural language processing, machine learning and artificial intelligence and further develop access to high-speed Internet.	<i>Lead:</i> Parties <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, organizations, regional centres	2025–2030
		3.2.I. Facilitate mobilization of financial resources for strengthening national clearing-house mechanisms.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat, organizations, regional centres	2025–2030
		3.2.J. Continue the process to recognize and grant awards to Parties which have made the most significant progress in the establishment or further development of their national clearing-house mechanisms.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat	2025–2030
<b>4. To facilitate networking and collaboration between Parties and partners</b>	4.1 The network of global, regional and national partner organizations and networks is expanded and strengthened.	4.1.A. Identify, map and publicize existing global, regional and national networks, communities of practice and partnerships related to biodiversity.	<i>Lead:</i> global entity, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, regional centres	2025–2030
		4.1.B. Strengthen structures, processes and platforms to link existing biodiversity networks, partnerships and initiatives.	<i>Lead:</i> global entity, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> regional centres, Secretariat	2025–2030



<i>Goal</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Strategic actions</i>	<i>Key actors</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
		4.1.C. Promote and facilitate cross-disciplinary interactions to leverage expertise, good practices and ideas from diverse networks.	<i>Lead:</i> global entity, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, regional centres	2025–2030
	4.2. Partners are actively networking and exchanging information, expertise, ideas and other resources through the clearing-house mechanism network.	4.2.A. Further develop and update tools and procedures for linking the central clearing-house mechanism with relevant organizations and information networks.	<i>Lead:</i> Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations, regional centres	2025–2030
		4.2.B. Further develop tools to facilitate networking and technical exchanges with partner organizations through the central portal and the national clearing-house mechanisms.	<i>Lead:</i> global entity, organizations <i>Contributing:</i> Secretariat, regional centres	2025–2030
		4.2.C. Maintain the database and network of practitioners through the central portal and the national clearing-house mechanisms.	<i>Lead:</i> global entity, Secretariat <i>Contributing:</i> organizations, regional centres	2025–2030