



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fourteenth meeting

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018

Item 11 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRESS REPORT ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In paragraph 19 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a web strategy to ensure central access to all information common or relevant to the clearing-house mechanism, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House, as well as other platforms developed under the Convention. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary prepared a “Web Strategy for the Convention and its Protocols” and made it available to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD/COP/13/14/Add.1).
2. In paragraphs 15(i), (j) and (k) of decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to implement the web strategy in line with the Framework for a Communications Strategy, as adopted in decision XIII/22; to update the web strategy with priority actions to be taken before 2018 based on decisions from the last meetings of the Parties; and further develop the Clearing-House Mechanism, in line with the web strategy and with the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
3. This report summarizes the main activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in response to the above-mentioned requests and in accordance with the mission, goals and objectives of the clearing-house mechanism. It updates the information provided in document CBD/SBI/2/9 submitted to the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 2). It also highlights relevant initiatives undertaken in collaboration with partners and the work of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism.

A. Update of the Web Strategy

4. Pursuant to the request in paragraph 15(i) of decision XIII/23, the Secretariat has undertaken a number of actions to implement the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols. The Secretariat developed an implementation approach and a roadmap which includes two phases. The first phase is to be completed prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, focusing on urgent activities and deliverables expected to be completed by that meeting, as requested by the Conference of the Parties. The first phase includes the development of the first version of a new CBD website, which is expected to be more dynamic, attractive and user-friendly. The second phase will run until the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020 and will focus on the implementation of the remaining deliverables identified in the web strategy and further improvement of first-phase deliverables. The list of activities and deliverables for the two phases were presented in the draft updated web strategy, made available as information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/16.

5. During the first phase, the Secretariat selected a contracting firm to execute the initial phase of the new CBD website. This includes the design of a wire-frame, icons and color schemes and a mock-up website, including a functional home page and several other pages to be made available for review at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In accordance with the United Nations common software standards, Drupal 8 was chosen as the Content Management System for the website. Further work will follow to develop the infrastructure, refine the design and functionality based on feedback, and review and migrate content from the current design infrastructure.

6. Additionally, a smartphone application has been developed to provide easy access to documents and logistical information relating to meetings of the Convention and its Protocols. The application will be launched at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will be available in the Apple and Android app stores.

7. A timeline-based overview calendar of meetings and parallel events for the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 is also available on the meeting website, providing a quick, high-level view of events.

B. Web translation

8. The web translation process continued in all six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) with the translator roster and the available budget, including voluntary funding from the European Union. For the period from 1 March 2018 to 31 August 2018, overall web translation amounted to 168,763 words (31,442 in Arabic, 61,284 in Chinese, 22,876 in French, 30,405 in Russian and 22,756 in Spanish).

C. Support to national clearing-house mechanisms

9. In decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and partners to provide support to developing country Parties that were developing their national clearing-house mechanisms (para. 15), and it also invited Parties and donors to continue to provide financial support to establish and strengthen their national clearing-house mechanisms, including for content preparation and for translation to facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge (para. 16). In paragraph 12 of decision XIII/23, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to continue their efforts to establish, sustain and further develop effective national clearing-house mechanisms in support of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

10. The Secretariat provided support for the development of national CHMs during 2017-2018. This included organization of two regional capacity-building workshops on the CHM referred to in document CBD/SBI/2/INF/6, as well as support to further develop and rollout the Bioland tool facilitating the establishment of national CHMs. The first version of the Bioland tool to assist Parties in the establishment of their national clearing-house mechanisms was presented in workshops held during 2017-2018. Since then, the Secretariat has prepared an upgraded version of this tool, which provides new features focusing on usability. Among other things, this new version is expected to facilitate the migration from existing national CHM built with the European CHM PTK to the new Bioland tool. The current version of this tool can be visualized at <https://demo.chm-cbd.net>. Several Parties that had already established a national clearing-house mechanism have expressed interest in migrating their existing national CHM websites to the Bioland tool.

D. Award for national clearing-house mechanisms

11. In paragraph 15 of decision XII/2 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to propose, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism, a process to grant, at the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources, an award to the Parties that would have made the most significant progress in the establishment or further development of their national clearing-house mechanisms. As requested, the first set of awards was granted at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Notification 2018-010 issued 15 January 2018 launched the process for the second set of awards to be granted at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Parties had until 31 August 2018 to submit their questionnaires as indication of their interest in being considered for the awards. In response a total of 32 applications were received.

12. The awards jury met on 27-28 September 2018 to rate and review the applications and select the winners of the Award from among the submissions received. A ceremony to announce the award winners will be held during COP 14 in Egypt.

E. Other initiatives implemented in collaboration with partners

13. The Secretariat continued to collaborate with the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) Initiative on various issues, including the Law and Environment Ontology (LEO), interoperability, e-learning, the use of the Akoma-Ntoso format adopted for United Nations documents, and synergies in national reporting through the Data Reporting Tool (DART). Further information is available at <https://www.informea.org/about>.

F. Work of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism

14. A face-to-face meeting took place in Montreal on the margins of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 10 July 2018. The recommendations of that meeting are available in document CBD/CHM/IAC/2018/1/2.
