



Convention on Biological Diversity

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MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE
MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Online, 23 November 2021

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 23 NOVEMBER 2021

Summary

The Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism met virtually on 23 November 2021. It provided the Executive Secretary with views and recommendations concerning the award for national clearing-house mechanisms.

I. RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Award for national clearing-house mechanisms

1. In view of the limited number of applications received for the award, as well as the technical challenges encountered by Parties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee:

(a) Recommends that all active national clearing-house mechanism websites be reviewed by the jury for consideration for an award;

(b) Also recommends that the Executive Secretary inform the national focal points and national clearing-house mechanism focal point(s) of those Parties with an active national clearing-house mechanism website that their website will be considered for an award, based on the criteria established by the CHM Awards jury and that any Party may decide to opt out of consideration for an award by duly notifying the Secretariat before 31 December 2021.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened by the Chair at 9.40 a.m. (EDT) on 23 November 2021 with a brief opening statement, welcoming participants. Welcome remarks were also made on behalf of the Executive Secretary by Mr. Erie Tamale of the Secretariat. Mr. Tamale thanked members of the Committee for their continued support and commended the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity for donating trophies for the award to be given at the resumed sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He provided an update on the resumed sessions of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, both scheduled to be held from 12 to 28 January in Geneva, Switzerland.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3. The participants agreed on the agenda and organization of work, noting the limited time available.

ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

Item 3.1. Update of the award for clearing-house mechanism

4. The Secretariat provided the Committee with a briefing on the situation regarding the CHM award process. By the extended deadline of 31 December 2020, only six applications had been received by the Secretariat. The modalities for granting the award, contained in the annex to [notification 2020-018](#), under the section on participation, specify that “each existing national CHM will be assessed provided that the requested relevant information is submitted to the Secretariat through the corresponding questionnaire.”

5. Upon consideration of the update provided by the Secretariat, the Committee noted that several national clearing-house mechanisms were experiencing technical problems and were not active as a result. The Secretariat confirmed that the technical issues were being resolved on a case-by-case basis. With this assurance, the Committee was in agreement that all active national clearing-house mechanisms should be considered for the award as the way forward and that the Secretariat would contact all national focal points and clearing-house mechanism focal points to advise them of the change while allowing them the opportunity to opt out if they so chose.

6. The Committee also considered the selection of a jury to determine the award winners. The criteria would be reviewed and updated by the jury before the selection process began. The jury would convene an online meeting to complete that work. The Chair informed the Committee that Belgium had generously agreed to support the hosting of a two-day in-person meeting of the jury to complete the process. The Committee then nominated the following members to be part of the jury:

	<i>Party</i>	<i>Member</i>
1	Belgium	Mr. Han de Koeijer - Chair
2	Cameroon	Mr. Rigobert Ntep
<i>Partner organizations</i>		
3	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)	Mr. Jon Tayleur
<i>Observers</i>		
4	Global Biodiversity Information Facility GBIF	Mr. Tim Hirsch
5	CBD Secretariat support	Ms. Sandra Meehan

ITEM 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Item 4.1. Items for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee

7. Mr. Tim Hirsch from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) offered to make a short presentation on the results of the GBIF [pilot programme](#) to provide hosted data portal facilities, already resulting in five online portals at national, regional, thematic and institutional scales. The aim would be to consider how such hosted portals could best be linked to national CHM platforms.

8. The Chair requested Mr. Jerry Harrison of UNEP-WCMC to update the Committee on outcomes of the [Webinar](#) on Supporting Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held on 26 October 2021, co-organized by the Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, and other partners. The Secretariat also requested Mr. Harrison to provide an update on the status of the Global Biodiversity Knowledge Centre. In

both cases, the intention was to explore how the outcomes of these processes may support Bioland and national CHM platforms. Mr. Harrison agreed to follow up and report on a future occasion.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

9. The Chair requested the Secretariat to resolve the redirection issue being encountered by several national clearing-house mechanisms.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The recommendations resulting from this meeting are indicated in section I above. The Chair expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the good work done under the difficult current circumstances. A group photo of the participants was taken virtually.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

11. The meeting concluded at 10.54 a.m. (EDT).

*Annex***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Member</i>
1	Belgium	Mr. Han de Koeijer - Chair
2	Cameroon	Mr. Rigobert Ntep
3	Morocco	Mr. Mostafa Madbouhi
4	Sri Lanka	Ms. H.M.H.E. Herath
	<i>Partner organization</i>	<i>Member</i>
5	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)	Mr. Jerry Harrison
	<i>Observers</i>	
6	Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	Mr. Tim Hirsch
	<i>Secretariat</i>	
7	Mr. Erie Tamale	Senior Programme Officer
8	Mr. Frederic Vogel	Programme Officer
9	Ms. Sandra Meehan	Senior Programme Management Assistant
10	Mr. Djessy Monnier	Senior Programme Management Assistant
11	Mr. Randy Houlahan	Associate Information Systems Officer