



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/5
9 February 2018

ENGLISH ONLY

MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE
MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Montreal, Canada, 7-8 December 2017

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON ITS MEETING OF 7-8 DECEMBER 2017

I. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Joint modalities of operation for the central clearing-house mechanism, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house

1. Update the possible elements for joint modalities of operation for the central [clearing-house mechanism](#) (CHM), the [Biosafety Clearing-House](#) (BCH) and the [Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house](#) (ABSCH)¹ based on the changes suggested by the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism.²
2. Prepare a document containing the procedures for online submission of records to the various components of the central CHM, in line with paragraph 4(a) of the possible elements for joint modalities of operation for the central CHM, the BCH and the ABSCH.

Web strategy

3. Split the current draft updated strategy³ into two documents as follows:
 - (a) The actual web strategy, as a stable document;
 - (b) The implementation plan of the web strategy, which could be updated to reflect progress made and adapted on the basis of decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Share the updated web strategy and the implementation plan with the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House and with the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House for comments before submitting them for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting as part of the progress report requested in [decision XIII/23](#) (para. 15(l)).
5. Seek advice and support from the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism intersessionally in the implementation of relevant parts of the web strategy, including in testing new deliverables.

¹ [CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/3](#).

² The document incorporating the changes suggested by the Informal Advisory Committee will be submitted to the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House at its eleventh meeting (see [CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/2](#)).

³ [CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/4](#).

Online reporting tool

6. Facilitate the distinction between:
 - (a) Information submitted through the online reporting tool as part of the sixth national report;
 - (b) Updates submitted subsequent to completion of the sixth national report, in the context of continuous reporting;

and include this proposal in the report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting.

7. Consider splitting the common format used for the sixth national report into more granular common formats with a view to enabling more modular reporting for continuous reporting after the reporting phase for the sixth national report.

Interoperability

8. Consider using the JavaScript Object Notation Application Program Interface (JSON API) standard⁴ to facilitate interoperability.
9. Improve the CHM application program interface and its documentation in order to reduce the technical requirements for Parties and partners interested in using it.

Technical and scientific cooperation

10. Ensure that relevant information from the [Bio-Bridge Initiative](#) web platform is made available through the Bioland tool in order to stimulate the sharing of information on capacity-building needs and opportunities and available technical assistance.

Support to national clearing-house mechanisms

11. Continue to prioritize the development and implementation of the Bioland tool, and provide Parties with support in its implementation.
12. Increase the incorporation of relevant external information through interoperability in the Bioland tool, working with partner organizations, as appropriate.
13. Establish a working group within the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism to provide advice on the further development of the Bioland tool.

Award for national clearing-house mechanisms

14. Approach relevant organizations involved in granting web awards to see whether they could be involved in the CHM award process.

Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism

15. Consider scheduling the next meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism on Sunday, 8 July 2018, between the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.
16. Continue to convene teleconferences as necessary for supporting the secretariat in the development of the CHM and the implementation of the web strategy, and preparing for the next meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism.

⁴ <http://jsonapi.org>

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

A. General information

1. The meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Montreal, Canada, on 7 and 8 December 2017, prior to the twenty-first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The meeting documents are available online at www.cbd.int/meetings/chmiac-2017-01. The list of participants appears in the annex to the present report.

B. Background

2. In [decision X/15](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted the mission, goals and objectives of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2011-2020. In [decision XI/2 B](#), paragraph 11, it welcomed the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 ([UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31](#)) and agreed to keep this work programme under review. More recently, in decisions [XII/2 B](#) and [XIII/23](#), the Conference of the Parties made several requests concerning the clearing-house mechanism.

3. At its last meeting, held in Cancun, Mexico, on 3 December 2016, the Informal Advisory Committee reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism. For the report of that meeting, including recommendations to the Executive Secretary, see [UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2016/2/2](#).

C. Expected outcome

4. The main purpose of the meeting was to review the progress made in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism, including the requests made by the Conference of the Parties in decision XIII/23 and the recommendations made by the Committee at its last meeting, and to provide the Executive Secretary with further advice on the clearing-house mechanism.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on 7 December 2017 by Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Executive Secretary. In his opening statement, he highlighted the overall progress made since the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties in various areas, including the online reporting tool, the Bio-Bridge Initiative, the web and communication strategies, interoperability and the support to national clearing-house mechanisms.

6. The Chair of the meeting, Mr. Han de Koeijer (Belgium), then gave participants the opportunity to introduce themselves. He welcomed the new members of the Committee and conveyed the regrets of the participants who could not attend.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

7. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/1](#)) prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chair.

2.2. Organization of work

8. The Committee adopted the proposed organization of work, as contained in annex I of the annotated provisional agenda ([CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/1/Add.1](#)).

ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

9. The Committee was invited to have an in-depth discussion on the following key issues, and raise additional relevant issues at the end of the discussion on this agenda item:

- (a) Joint modalities of operation for the central clearing-house mechanism, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house;
- (b) Web strategy;
- (c) Online reporting tool;
- (d) Interoperability;
- (e) Technical and scientific cooperation;
- (f) Support to national clearing-house mechanisms;
- (g) Award for national clearing-house mechanisms;
- (h) Partners' contributions to the clearing-house mechanism.

3.1. Joint modalities of operation for the central clearing-house mechanism, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

10. The Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Clearing-House were established as part of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity by Article 20 of the [Cartagena Protocol](#) and Article 14 of the [Nagoya Protocol](#), respectively. Modalities of operation for the Biosafety Clearing-House were adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to Cartagena Protocol in its [decision BS-I/3](#), and the modalities for the ABS Clearing-House were adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol in its [decision NP-1/2](#).

11. At their most recent meetings, held in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016, the two bodies adopted similar decisions requesting the Executive Secretary to develop joint modalities of operation for the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, taking into consideration the web strategy ([decision CP VIII/2](#), para. 8(h), and [decision NP 2/2](#), para. 8(a), respectively).

12. The joint modalities are to be considered by the respective governing bodies of the Convention and of the two Protocols at their next meetings with a view to enhancing coherence in the implementation and operation of the common elements of the central clearing-house mechanism, while preserving the specific functionalities of the clearing-houses of the Protocols and the Convention.

13. Pursuant to those decisions, the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House considered possible elements for joint modalities of operation during its meeting held in Montreal, Canada, from 14 to 16 November 2017. Following that meeting, the Executive Secretary issued a note on possible elements for joint modalities of operation for the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House ([CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/3](#)), taking into account the advice given by the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House.⁵

14. Mr. Matthew Dias (CBD Secretariat) introduced the joint modalities document as updated on the basis of the feedback from the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House. He indicated that that document was to be considered complementary to the adopted modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House (decision BS-I/3) and of the ABS Clearing-House (decision NP-1/2), and was intended to promote integration among the clearing-houses.

15. Following the introduction, the Committee reviewed the annex to the document and provided feedback and suggestions for improvement. The document was updated following the discussions. The main questions raised during the discussion related to the types of information collected in the central CHM and the process for approval of national information.

⁵ For the report, see [CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2017/1/4](#).

16. Taking into account the advice of this Committee, the Executive Secretary will prepare an updated document for consideration by the Informal Advisory Committee to the Biosafety Clearing-House at its next meeting, in 2018.

17. The subsection on joint modalities in section I contains the recommendations to the Executive Secretary arising from this sub-item.

3.2. Web strategy

18. In decision XII/2 B, paragraph 19, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a web strategy to ensure that 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, could be accessed centrally to avoid duplication of efforts, and to provide this strategy to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its first meeting, in preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

19. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary prepared a web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols ([CBD/COP/13/14/Add.1](#)), which was submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.

20. In [decision XIII/23](#), paragraphs 15 (i), (j) and (k), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To implement the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols, in line with the Framework for a Communications Strategy which was adopted in [decision XIII/22](#);

(b) To update the web strategy with priority actions to be taken before 2018 based on decisions emanating from the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the second meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and the eighth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in particular with actions mentioned in the short-term action plan for capacity-building;

(c) To 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](#).

21. Mr. Olivier de Munck (CBD Secretariat) summarized the process of updating the web strategy and presented the draft updated web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols ([CBD/CHM/IAC/2017/1/4](#)). The document contained the list of priority actions to be taken before 2018, together with updated information on the implementation of the strategy.

22. Mr. Erie Tamale (CBD Secretariat) also described the composition and mandate of the Web Strategy Task Force created by the Executive Secretary to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the web strategy in line with the communications strategy.

23. The Committee was then invited to provide feedback and advice. The Chair suggested focusing the review on the annex to the document, which included a summary of the proposed changes and the list of action items. A discussion ensued regarding the list of items to be implemented, as well as the post-2020 period and the role of the Committee in prioritizing projects.

24. The subsection on the “Web strategy” in section I contains the recommendations to the Executive Secretary arising from this sub-item.

3.3. Online reporting tool

25. In [decision XII/2](#) B, paragraph 18(a), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to establish a fully functional online reporting tool enabling Parties to submit, on a voluntary basis, information on their progress towards national targets and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, directly involving Parties in the development and testing of this tool.

26. Subsequently, in [decision XIII/27](#), paragraph 2(b), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop the voluntary online reporting tool with a view to fully aligning it with the reporting templates for the sixth national report by 31 March 2017 at the latest. The online reporting tool has been aligned as requested and is available at <https://chm.cbd.int>. Parties are encouraged to use it to submit information related to the sixth national report.

27. Ms. Kata Koppel (CBD Secretariat) briefly demonstrated the latest version of the online reporting tool with its sections aligned to the guidelines for the sixth national report. Mr. Robert Hoft (CBD Secretariat) gave more details about the tool's status and development process, as well as the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. He also reminded the Committee of the availability of one-on-one assistance for Parties in entering their data.

28. During the discussions, the Committee considered some of the next steps for Parties. The Committee was satisfied that their past input and suggestions for improvement had been taken into consideration. Noting the ability to update records in the online tool at any time, the Committee recognized the need to distinguish records that were officially submitted as part of the national report from those that were updated afterwards. The Committee was informed that national reports would be registered in portable document format (PDF) and that each record was associated with a time stamp enabling the system to back-check records to a previous date.

29. The "online reporting tool" subsection in section I contains the recommendations to the Executive Secretary arising from this sub-item.

3.4. Interoperability

30. In decision XII/2 B, paragraphs 18(b) and 18(c), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue developing the following interoperability services of the central clearing-house mechanism:

(a) Interoperability with national clearing-house mechanisms, among which is the existing portal toolkit used by many national and regional clearing-house mechanisms, where applicable;

(b) Interoperability with InforMEA to allow relevant information on the Convention on Biological Diversity to be globally searchable on the InforMEA website.

31. Mr. Olivier de Munck (CBD Secretariat) gave a brief update on the status of the application programming interfaces (APIs) being used by the Secretariat. He explained that the Secretariat was using APIs to connect with the MEA Information and Knowledge Management initiative (via the InforMEA API) and with national CHMs via a JSON API that would be integrated with the new national CHM tool and within the new CBD website.

32. The Committee was invited to provide comments and advice on the further development of interoperability and its potential use through the network. It was suggested that work should continue on the JSON API, which can be a Drupal plug-in and can expose certain content types. It was also suggested that the JSON API be integrated into the Bioland tool and used on the new CBD website.

33. The "Interoperability" section on page 2 contains the recommendations to the Executive Secretary arising from this sub-item.

3.5. Technical and scientific cooperation

34. In decision XII/2 B, paragraph 9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention. It also welcomed the Bio-Bridge Initiative, which had been established by the Government of the Republic of Korea to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention and its Protocols with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (decision XII/2 B, para. 13, and decision XII/3, para. 5).

35. The Bio-Bridge Initiative facilitates technical and scientific cooperation by linking Parties that have technical and scientific needs with Parties and institutions that are in a position to provide technical assistance to address the expressed needs through mutual cooperation. Since the launch of the Initiative, the Secretariat has developed a Bio-Bridge Action Plan for 2017-2020, supported pilot projects to test various technical and scientific cooperation approaches and established a help desk to assist Parties in articulating their needs and to facilitate matchmaking. Furthermore, a Bio-Bridge web platform has been developed an integral component of the central clearing-house mechanism to enable countries and relevant stakeholders to submit requests for assistance, post offers of technical assistance, announce available opportunities and access a wide range of knowledge assets and curated resources. The platform is available at <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/platform>.

36. Mr. Erie Tamale (CBD Secretariat) updated the Committee on the progress made with the development of the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) since the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He noted that the BBI operations had continued to evolve and were based on three tools: the web platform, the help desk, and regional round tables. Three regional round tables had been held, and another one was planned for early 2018.

37. In the discussions, the Committee raised questions and made suggestions on various items, such as the current level of BBI's outreach work, requests for assistance, the BBI pilot projects, and the integration of the BBI platform with the web strategy implementation.

38. The "technical and scientific cooperation" subsection in section I contains the recommendations to the Executive Secretary arising from this sub-item.

3.6. Support to national clearing-house mechanisms

39. In decision XII/2 B, paragraph 15, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and partners to provide support to developing country Parties that were developing their national clearing-house mechanisms. In paragraph 16 of the same decision, 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.

40. In decision XIII/23, paragraph 12, 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 the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

41. Mr. Olivier de Munck (CBD Secretariat) provided an update regarding support to national CHMs. He indicated that, thanks to the funding from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the CBD Secretariat had been able to participate in two regional capacity-building workshops on the CHM (one held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 13 April 2017 and the other held in Lomé from 2 to 5 May 2017). He also demonstrated the latest version of the Bioland tool (available at <http://demo.chm-cbd.net>), which had been developed to assist Parties in the establishment of their national clearing-house mechanisms. He reminded the Committee of the continued availability of assistance from the Secretariat for Parties that wanted to use that tool.

42. Mr. Carlos Enrique Galindo Leal (Mexico) presented the national CHM of Mexico, hosted by the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Spanish: Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)),⁶ which was the winner of the award for existing national clearing-house mechanisms given at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He shared best practices and features of the website with the Committee. He noted that Mexico had had success with integrating art into science communication and working with both citizen participation and citizen science. There had also been success in creating partnerships with businesses for publicity with minimal cost, as well as using social networks.

⁶ <http://biodiversidad.mx>

43. The Committee gave feedback and suggestions for improvement for the Bioland tool, and suggested further improvements. Questions were also raised about possible migrations to the tool and improving the automation of technical links with the central CHM. Due to the technical nature of those issues, it was recommended that a small group/subcommittee within the Committee be created to provide advice on further development of the tool.

44. The “Support to national clearing-house mechanisms” subsection in section I contains the recommendations to the Executive Secretary arising from this sub-item.

3.7. Awards for national clearing-house mechanisms

45. In decision XII/2 B, paragraph 15, 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 had made the most significant progress in the establishment or further development of their national clearing-house mechanisms.

46. As requested, the first set of awards was granted at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Since then, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Committee, has started the preparatory process to grant awards at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

47. Mr. Olivier de Munck (CBD Secretariat) gave a brief history of the award and provided an update regarding the next steps in the preparatory process for granting awards at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A draft notification, the award assessment criteria and guidance to the jury were shared with the Committee prior to the meeting. A draft scoring tool will be shared with all Committee members for feedback after the current meeting.

48. A discussion ensued based on comments received from Ms. Yueyu Zou (China) regarding the criteria for assessment, and input was given by Committee members. The criteria were updated based on the feedback given, including their re-organization under subsections or groupings. Comments were also given regarding the objectiveness of the criteria and how they would be used to rate potential award winners. It was agreed that the criteria and notification would be reviewed again and sent for further comments and feedback from the Committee members.

49. Mr. Charles Shulman (Canada) suggested that members from international web award panels should be invited to join the jury by the Executive Secretary. Their experience with web design and objective expertise would be an asset. Mr. Shulman would send a list of existing web awards to the Secretariat as a basis for invitations.

50. The Chair indicated that one more jury member was still needed. Committee members were encouraged to join the jury. Current jury members included Moustafa Madbouhi (Morocco), Slavisa Popovic (Serbia), John Tayleur (UNEP-WCMC), and Eva Duer (UNEP-DELC).

51. The “Award for national clearing-house mechanisms” subsection in section I contains the recommendations to the Executive Secretary arising from this sub-item.

3.8. Partners’ contributions to the clearing-house mechanism

52. In accordance with Goal 3 of the clearing-house mechanism, adopted in [decision X/15](#), partners are expected to significantly expand the clearing-house mechanism network and services. At this meeting, three partners who are members of the Committee — the United Nations Environment Programme’s [World Conservation Monitoring Centre](#) (UNEP-WCMC), the [MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative](#) (MEA-IKM), and the [ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity](#) (ACB) — were given an opportunity to share their contributions with other members.

53. The MEA-IKM initiative has been involved in a number of projects aiming at further sharing MEA information and knowledge. Its main achievement is the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environment Agreements (InforMEA), which is accessible at www.informe.org.

54. Ms. Eva Duer (UNEP) presented the work of the MEA-IKM Initiative, and its main project InforMEA. During the preceding year, InforMEA had continued its work to integrate information from multilateral environmental agreements and other sources into a single interface. InforMEA had 25 e-learning courses available and nearly 10,000 registered learners from 195 countries. The initiative had also been involved in the Data And Reporting Tool (DART) project, whose goal was to provide interested Parties with a web-based platform that facilitated how they reported to various conventions. Further development of the DART tool and its capabilities would continue during 2018 and beyond.

55. As part of its follow-up to [decision XIII/24](#) on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, UNEP-WCMC has continued to contribute to the facilitation of access to global biodiversity data and information resources. More specifically, UNEP-WCMC is supporting the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme in developing a compendium of annotated lists of global data and information sources that may be of value to countries in supporting implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, including associated reporting. This relates directly to earlier discussions of the Committee in the context of the Bioland tool.

56. Mr. Jerry Harrison (UNEP-WCMC) described the current work of WCMC on four specific activities which might be of particular interest:

- (a) Increase access to existing guidance on capturing, managing and using data and information;
- (b) Increase access to key global data and information sources relevant to implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;
- (c) Increase access to guidance on increasing alignment in implementing biodiversity-related conventions at the national level;
- (d) Promote the sharing of experience on cooperation and synergies.

57. The first three activities would result in a paper, but the sharing of experiences on cooperation and synergies would be done online. It was hoped that, in the future, an interactive database could be created to capture and maintain that information.

58. Ms. Sheila Vergara (ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity) presented an overview of the ASEAN Regional Clearing-House Mechanism and its related tools. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) hosted, among other things, the ASEAN Regional Clearing-House Mechanism⁷ and supported Member States of the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) (ASEAN) in their efforts to establish and maintain their national clearing-house mechanisms.

59. The Regional CHM is a platform for information-sharing in the ASEAN region and an entry point to the national CHMs of the ASEAN Member States. It also hosts a centralized species database with over 68,000 records, an e-library, online protected areas mapping tools, ASAP heritage parks listing, a lessons-learned database and the Aichi Targets Explorer. Many of these tools are made available through partnerships.

3.9. Additional issues

60. Under this sub-item, the Committee was invited to raise and discuss any relevant issues not covered under the previous sub-items. No issues were raised.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

61. Under this item, the Committee was invited to consider any other matter, such as matters related to the operations of the Committee.

62. The Committee recommended that its next face-to-face meeting be scheduled for Sunday, 8 July 2018, between the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

⁷ <https://aseanbiodiversity.org/the-asean-clearing-house-mechanism>

Technological Advice and the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. In the meantime, the Committee would continue to meet online as needed.

63. The subsection entitled “Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism” in section I contains the recommendation to the Executive Secretary arising from this item.

ITEM 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

64. Committee members agreed that the discussions of the previous items would form the basis for preparing recommendations to the Executive Secretary. These recommendations are contained in section I.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

65. The chair made closing remarks. He expressed his appreciation of the work accomplished during the meeting and thanked the participants for their valuable contributions. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, 8 December 2017.

Annex

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