



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
18 October 2024

English only

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sixteenth meeting

Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024

Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

**Capacity-building and development, technical and
scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism
and knowledge management**

Progress report on the clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management, in response to decision 15/16**

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 9 of decision 15/16, the Conference of the Parties requested the executive Secretary to facilitate the efforts of Parties to establish, sustain and further develop their national clearing-house mechanisms (National CHM). In response the Secretariat established national CHM portals for 108 Parties that did not have a CHM portal. The Secretariat also provided training and guidance to 15 Parties on the ways to effectively manage and use their existing national clearing-house mechanism portal by identifying and adding relevant biodiversity related news, documents, reports and other information types. The Secretariat produced training videos on use of Bioland tool. The Secretariat also hired a user experience consultant to develop a more engaging, efficient and informative user interface design for Bioland tool. This new user interface design is referred as Bioland 2.0.

2. Furthermore, the Conference of Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to continue the award for national clearing-house mechanism until 2030. Pursuant to this, the Secretariat issued a notification¹ in July 2024, inviting Parties to submit their nominations for 4th round of Clearing-House Mechanism Award for to be held during COP 2024. Accordingly of a Jury of 4 members convened at United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Center Office in Cambridge from 24 September to 26 September 2024 and reviewed the submitted applications by Parties, using a set of agreed selection criteria. In the end, the jury selected the final winners under each category, from a pool of 24 applications. The winners will receive the award. Other Parties that have made significant progress with their CHM websites will receive a “Certificate of Achievement”, as has been the practice in the previous rounds.

3. In Paragraph (c) the Conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop the central clearing-house mechanism portal to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management, communication and enhanced planning, implementation,

* CBD/COP/16/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-070>.

monitoring, reporting and review process. In response, the Secretariat hired a consultant to upgrade the user interface, search feature and submission feature of the central clearing-house mechanism portal.

4. In Paragraph (d), the Conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue the collaboration with other relevant initiatives, organizations and networks supporting the generation, capture, management and effective use of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge. Pursuant to this, the Secretariat worked closely with organizations like Food and Agricultural Organization, IUCN Panorama, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GEOBON, United National Development Programme, ASEAN Center of Biodiversity, Alexander Von Humboldt Biological Resource Research Institute, InforMEA, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation and Monitoring Center, DaRT among others. The outcome of these activities led to establishment and strengthening of interoperability between information and knowledge bases to provide common access to data and information, development of NBSAP forums, organization of Knowledge Management for Biodiversity Webinar series, organization of knowledge management training course and knowledge management for development workshop.

5. In paragraph (e), the conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to promote the use of relevant digital technologies.

6. In paragraph (f), the Conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a proposal for an updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. In response to the request, the Secretariat prepared the updated work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, which was reviewed and approved by the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation. The programme was presented for consideration by Subsidiary Body of Implementation at its fourth meeting. It is contained in [recommendation 4/6](#), [annex I](#), and will be submitted for consideration by Conference of Parties at its' sixteenth meeting, with a view to its adoption.

7. The present document presents, for the information of participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the progress made in implementing the above decisions on the Clearing House Mechanism and Knowledge Management.

1. Support on National Clearing-House Mechanisms

8. During 2023-2024, the Secretariat transformed the user interface and features of Bioland tool to support the creation and maintenance of national CHM portals. This transformation focused on following aspects.

- (a) Development of a new user interface design;
- (b) Improvement of the user experience to enable quick and intuitive access to information;
- (c) Improvement of access to relevant information and content in an intuitive and standardized way;
- (d) Strengthening of the connections and interoperability with key knowledge bases and information database;
- (e) Improvement of integration of national CHM portals with the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and the CBD website.

9. The Secretariat also organized online training workshops, one to one meetings and side events during major meetings to train and inform Parties about national CHM portals and the Bioland tool. Online one-on-one training and support was provided to at least 14 countries. Please refer to annex II for details.²

² Angola, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Eswatini, Gambia (the), Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, and the United Kingdom.

2. Progress Report on the Central Portal of the Clearing-House Mechanism

10. Pursuant to the request by Conference of Parties in decision 15/16, the Secretariat continued its efforts to further develop the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and leverage relevant digital technologies to enable information exchange and planning, monitoring, reporting and review of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

11. In 2024, the Secretariat upgraded the user interface of the central portal of clearing-house mechanism (central CHM portal) under the same platform as the Access and Benefit Sharing clearing-house and the Biosafety Clearing-House to provide a consistent user experience across the three clearing-houses. The upgrade includes:

- (a) A new interactive home page which is more visual and has an interactive world map to easily and intuitively access country or region-specific records;
- (b) Improved search feature with advanced filters;
- (c) Search results categorized by national, reference and SCBD record types;
- (d) Submission forms aligned with the Access and Benefit Sharing clearing-house and Biosafety Clearing-House;
- (e) Removal of obsolete submission forms.

12. The new version of the CHM Portal also includes some new technological innovations. These features include:

- (a) Save search functionality: This feature allows users to save the filters for searching for records so that they can perform the same search later without re-entering it. This can be particularly useful for complex queries that users intend to use repeatedly, but any frequently used query benefits from being saved;
- (b) Ability to change result views: Based on their requirements, users now have ability to create different result set views to easily find or group results;
- (c) Share the results feature: Now users can refer to the search results by sharing the results page as a URL, using email, or embed it directly into a web-page.

13. The new portal is undergoing testing and will be available for Parties and other stakeholders to submit and share information in the coming few weeks.

14. Pursuant to decision 15/6, Secretariat developed and enhanced the Online Reporting Tool (ORT) to enable Parties to submit their national targets and NBSAPs. At SBSTTA-25 (Oct 2023), the online reporting tool was released for national target submissions. At SBSTTA-26 (May 2024), an updated version of ORT was released for the submission of Seventh National Report.

15. The Secretariat added the latest decisions from COP-15 into the Decision Tracking Tool. Further the tool was also upgraded to allow for enhanced search and tagging of keywords using artificial intelligence.

3. Knowledge Management

16. Pursuant to a request by the Conference of the Parties in decisions 15/4 and 15/16, the Secretariat has undertaken a comprehensive range of activities to enhance knowledge management for biodiversity in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These initiatives encompass the support to the development of a draft knowledge management strategy, the establishment of a regional community of practice, the organization of webinars and training courses, and the facilitation of regional workshops. These efforts collectively aim to foster knowledge sharing, capacity building, and effective implementation of the GBF at national and regional levels.

3.1 Draft knowledge management strategy

17. Pursuant to a request by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 15/16, the Secretariat developed, with the support of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, a draft knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework. The draft strategy was peer-reviewed by Parties (CBD/SBI/4/INF/8), reviewed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention at its twelfth meeting (see CBD/WG8J/12/4 and recommendation 12/3 of the Working Group) and considered by the Subsidiary Body at its fourth meeting (CBD/SBI/4/7/Add.2). The Subsidiary Body adopted [recommendation 4/6](#) on those matters, which included a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, as reproduced in the compilation of draft decisions (CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1).

3.2 Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) Initiative

18. Pursuant to the request in Decision 15/4, the Secretariat embarked on facilitating the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and especially its Target 21 through the development and implementation of the Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) Initiative. The Initiative is comprised of five main components: organization of webinars, online training and in-person regional knowledge management workshops. The Initiative seeks to foster knowledge sharing, education, learning, institutional strengthening to support concrete on-ground action within the context of implementing and monitoring of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national reporting (NR) processes. The work of the Initiative during the biennium focused on three components: organization of webinars, launch of an online training course and organization of the first in-person regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean region.

3.2.1 KM4B Webinar series

19. The Secretariat organized the first webinar series, which comprised 11 webinars³, in collaboration with Parties and other partner organizations, covering a range of topics from introduction to knowledge management to knowledge management in biodiversity project management. More than 650 participants have registered to attend the eleven webinars between 5 September and 5 December 2023.

20. The Secretariat partnered with the following prominent organizations and invited the following Parties to present their approach to knowledge management: Knowledge for Development Partnership, UNEP-WCMC, EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, IUCN Centre for Conservation Action, BIOPAMA, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, representatives of the governments of Ghana and Belgium, FAO's Knowledge Platform for Emergencies and Resilience, IFAD, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, Humboldt Institute (Colombia), CONABIO (Mexico), Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), IUCN and GIZ PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet initiative, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (UN DESA), Digital for Planet, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Indigenous Women for Biodiversity Network in LAC region and University of Waikato.

21. A post-webinar survey revealed that most participants (47%) were government representatives. They valued the relevance of the topics, the knowledge shared, and the opportunity to join a broader Community of Practice focused on knowledge management for biodiversity (82% of respondents). Participants suggested several improvements for future webinars, including offering interpretation in Spanish and other UN languages, accommodating a wider range of time zones, providing more practical presentations specifically on GBF Targets to aid Parties in implementation,

³ <https://km4b.cbd.int/webinars>

sharing additional examples of NBSAPs with knowledge management approaches, including both successes and challenges, organizing in-person workshops on knowledge management, and fostering more interactive presentations with greater participant engagement.

3.2.2. Training Course on Knowledge Management for Biodiversity

22. Following the successful KM4B webinar series and in response to participants' feedback, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners and with financial support from the Government of Denmark, developed and delivered a live e-learning course on knowledge management fundamentals⁴. The course covered key concepts, processes, strategies, and frameworks, including the FAIR and CARE principles, knowledge organization, tools, governance, culture, and both organizational and societal approaches to knowledge management.

23. With over 620 registered participants, the course was a great success. It consisted of 16 one-hour modules, delivered in English, with each session covering two modules and offered twice daily to accommodate different time zones. The 16 live sessions, held from 20 August to 12 September, were well attended, with at least 100 participants per session and a peak of 230 attendees on 22 August. Recordings were made available on YouTube for self-paced viewing, engaging several hundred additional viewers. Assignments were also included to prepare participants for upcoming in-person workshops. Participation in this course is mandatory for attendees of the regional KM4B in-person workshops, ensuring a common foundation of knowledge.

24. A post-event survey revealed high degree of satisfaction, with most participants finding the course well-structured and the pace appropriate. They appreciated the relevance of the topics and the encouragement for discussion, with many agreeing that the core learning objectives were successfully met. A significant number of respondents agreed to recommend the course to colleagues, and some expressed interest in future in-person sessions. Participants suggested incorporating more practical examples and case studies on knowledge management, extending time for discussions and Q&A, and offering follow-up activities or workshops to help apply the knowledge in real-world settings. These suggestions highlight the desire for deeper engagement and hands-on learning opportunities.

3.2.3. Regional KM4B workshops

25. Building on the success of the e-learning course and the insightful feedback provided by participants, the Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean took place from 24–26 September 2024 in Bogotá, Colombia. This workshop was co-organized with the Humboldt Institute and the Organization of American States (OAS) and is an integral part of the broader KM4B Initiative, aimed at enhancing national and regional capacities to generate, organize, and share biodiversity-related knowledge to support evidence-based biodiversity planning, decision-making, and implementation. The workshop was made possible through the generous financial support of the Government of Denmark and the Organization of American States (OAS).

26. The workshop gathered 30 participants from all three subregions—Caribbean, Central America, and South America. The participants primarily represented Parties, alongside representatives from TSC IAC regional support centres (Central America Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Alexander von Humboldt Institute), as well as implementing support agencies (UNDP-NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, UNDP GEF Early Action Support project, and IUCN GIZ Panorama Solutions).

27. A major outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a first regional community of practice on knowledge management for biodiversity. Initially formed through instant messaging software, for quick communication, this community of practice will later transition to a formal forum, hosted and maintained by the Secretariat, to ensure long-term collaboration. This community will

⁴ <https://km4b.cbd.int/course>

serve as a platform for ongoing knowledge exchange, peer support, and regional collaboration to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Participants were able to get to know each other, establish partnerships, and outline how regional centres can support national Parties.

28. The workshop also focused on identifying knowledge gaps and regional priorities, with discussions on designing subregional projects and incorporating knowledge management components into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). This inclusion is crucial for securing financial support from GEF and other donors. The discussions underscored the importance of knowledge management in supporting the GBF, particularly in achieving Target 21, which emphasizes the accessibility and use of data, information, and knowledge in biodiversity planning and decision-making.

29. Looking ahead, the success of the Latin America and Caribbean regional workshop will be followed by three similar workshops planned for Asia, Africa, and the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region in the first and second quarters of 2025. These workshops will continue the KM4B Initiative's mission to strengthen regional capacities in biodiversity knowledge management, fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and addressing region-specific challenges. Each workshop will build on the experiences gained from previous sessions, further advancing the global effort to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Annex I

Bioland 2.0 Interoperability features and User Design Interface

Bioland 2.0 has interoperability with following knowledge bases and portals to exchange and share information:

- (a) CBD website: To import relevant news, events, notifications, and statements;
- (b) CHM portal: to import relevant National Reports, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, case studies, best practices, GBF targets related tools and guidance, match making opportunities, learning and development courses;
- (c) Biosafety clearing-house: National reports, decisions, laws and regulations, risk assessments, biosafety databases;
- (d) Access and Benefit Sharing clearing-house: Legislative, administrative and policy measures, checkpoint communiques, compliance reports;
- (e) Global Biodiversity Information Facility: Country specific data maps;
- (f) IUCN Panorama: Country/regional specific solutions.

Salient features of the new user interface design of Bioland 2.0:

- (a) Global navigation megamenu: The megamenu enables a quick, visual and intuitive access to all the content of the website;
- (b) Rich home page design: The home page of the Bioland 2.0 based national CHM portals sport various content types to meet varied needs of users. Each content type is featured in their own customized widgets;
- (c) Integration with Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: The new version of Bioland has improved taxonomy and vocabularies, allowing users to appropriately classify content for its easy and intuitive search;
- (d) Updated Drupal content management system: The new version provides more stability and better performance to Bioland 2.0 based national CHM portal.

Annex II

List of Trainings conducted by Secretariat on National CHM Portals

- (a) 17/4/2023 National CHM training call Angola, Azerbaijan, Eswatini, Gambia (the), Malawi;
- (b) Wed 5/24/2023: Talk on setting up National Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) website for Micronesia (Federated States of);
- (c) 7/26/2023: National CHM training call with Sierra Leone;
- (d) 7/27/2023: National CHM training call with Lesotho;
- (e) 8/2/2023: National CHM training call with the Malawi CHM Team;
- (f) 9/25/2023: National CHM training call with Colombia;
- (g) 10/18/2023: National CHM training call with Ireland (for I;
- (h) 11/29/2023: National CHM training call with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (i) 02/1/2024: National CHM training call with the Malawi CHM Team;
- (j) 2/23/2024: National CHM training call with Kenya;
- (k) 2/15/2024: National CHM training call with Madagascar;
- (l) 3/6/2024: National CHM training call with Morocco;
- (m) 22/5/2024: National CHM and Bioland Presentation in SBI-4;
- (n) 15/9/2024: National CHM training call with UK;
- (o) 24/9/2023: National CHM and Bioland presentation for European CHM network.