



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/BCH-IAC/6/2
May 1 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE BIOSAFETY

CLEARING-HOUSE

Sixth meeting

Montreal, 30 March – 1 April 2011

SUMMARY OUTCOMES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The sixth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH-IAC) was held in Montreal from 30 March – 1 April 2011.
2. The meeting was attended by experts selected from: Latvia, Germany, Mauritius, Costa Rica, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Ghana, Colombia, Mexico, European Union (EU), New Zealand and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Representatives of the Governments of Canada and of the United States of America as well as from three organizations (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), EcoNexus and Global Industry Coalition) also took part in the meeting as observers. Experts were also invited from Belarus, Chad, Japan, Palau, Poland, Rwanda, South Africa and Tajikistan but were unable to attend.
3. The meeting was convened by the Executive Secretary, in accordance with section E of the modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House (decision BS-I/3, annex of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP)) to seek guidance with respect to technical issues associated with the ongoing development of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).
4. The meeting was opened by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a statement emphasizing the importance of the BCH and the work of the BCH-IAC.
5. Ms. Julieta Fe L. Estacio from the Philippines served as Chairperson of the meeting and Dr. Joachim Bendiek from Germany served as Rapporteur.
6. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/BCH-IAC/6/1). The following principal items were discussed by the Committee:
 - (a) Strategic plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP decision BS-V/16): its relevance to the Biosafety Clearing-House and future challenges;
 - (b) Latest developments in the Biosafety Clearing-House and ongoing projects;
 - (c) Collaboration with the UNEP-GEF BCH II Capacity-Building Project; and
 - (d) Implementation of COP-MOP decision BS-V/2.
7. Presentations were made by the following: Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, Biosafety Division, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the Strategic plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP decision BS-V/16): its relevance to the Biosafety Clearing-House and future challenges; Mr. Giovanni Ferraiolo, Programme Officer, Biosafety Division (BCH), Secretariat of the Convention

on Biological Diversity, on the latest developments in the Biosafety Clearing-House and on-going projects; Dr. Aleksej Tarasjev, BCH Regional Advisor on UNEP-GEF BCH Project, on the Study of BCH Users and Potential Users; Ms. Manoela Miranda, Environmental Affairs Officer, Biosafety Division, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on proposed changes to the Living Modified Organism (LMO) Common Format; Mr. Philippe Leblond, Computer Information Systems Officer, Biosafety Division, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on graphic representations of data; and Ms. Ileana Lopez, Project Manager - BCH Project, UNEP-DELIC, on the UNEP-GEF Biosafety Clearing-House II project.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

8. Having discussed the items outlined in the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/BCH-IAC/6/1), the Informal Advisory Committee agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations, attached hereto as annex I, for consideration in the implementation of the programme of work for the Biosafety Clearing-House. Annex II to this report contains the list of participants to the meeting.

9. In the interest of using the available time for discussions, it was agreed that the Secretariat would present a draft of the meeting report by email to all members for their comments prior to its final publication.

10. Ms. Estacio thanked all of the meeting participants for their kind inputs and closed the meeting at 12.45 p.m. on Friday, 1 April 2011.

Annex I

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE AT ITS SIXTH MEETING**

The Informal Advisory Committee of the Biosafety Clearing-House

1. *Commends* the Secretariat for the progress achieved and the quality of the improvements made, stressing that the Biosafety Clearing-House has, as a result, become a more logical and user-friendly tool;
2. *Expresses* its sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its generous offer to sponsor a limited number of participants to the Asia-Pacific regional workshop from countries that are not currently participating in the UNEP-GEF BCH-II Project.
3. *Recommends* that the Secretariat:
 - (i) Makes available in the BCH information about the percentage of pages accessed in different languages by BCH users;
 - (ii) Adds an explanatory legend for icons used in the BCH and explores ways to make it available in languages other than the six official United Nations languages;
 - (iii) Notifies countries that the content of the BCH pages may be made available, as courtesy translations, in languages other than the six official United Nations languages on condition that the translations are provided;
 - (iv) On the Home Page, distinguishes between new records and updated records;
 - (v) Identifies if a decision/law record has been amended;
 - (vi) Distinguishes between decisions on field trials and commercial releases;
 - (vii) Reorders the decisions categories on the LMO page as follows: (1) food; (2) feed; (3) processing; (4) intentional introduction into the environment (with the subcategories: commercial release, field trial, other release); and (5) Other and adds a field in the decision common format that allows the BCH User to specify the other use under the environmental release;
 - (viii) Adds links on detection methods to LMO records from the EU and CropLife International databases and provides short descriptions of these databases;
 - (ix) Adds links to the Biotradestatus database on the commercial use of LMOs with a disclaimer that this information is not provided by Governments;
 - (x) Creates a contact detail registry of LMO developers;
 - (xi) Provides Quicklinks on LMO pages;
 - (xii) Streamlines the gene registry by eliminating redundancies;
 - (xiii) Removes Hermes instances that are not being used by countries and upgrades the others;
 - (xiv) Explores ways to make interoperable taxonomy databases such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), etc.;
 - (xv) Explores interoperability with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) – New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) capacity-building databases;
 - (xvi) Explores the scope and content of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and FAO/Codex Alimentarius Commission databases and invites representatives of these organizations to attend the next BCH-IAC meeting, if appropriate;
 - (xvii) Encourages National Focal Points for the BCH (BCH-NFPs) to be active and fulfil their responsibilities with respect to the BCH and considers making contacts with higher level persons than NFPs when NFPs are unresponsive;

(xviii) Explores ways to provide guidance on what information is required to be registered in the BCH and link this guidance to the Training Site;

(xix) Allows greater flexibility regarding mandatory fields in records published prior to the common format changes. The BCH-IAC agrees to participate in a selection process for the identification of mandatory fields where greater flexibility can be exercised;

(xx) Generates lists of records that need to be revised due to lack of completeness on a country-by-country basis. Sends this list to BCH-NFPs and places a link to these records in the Management Centre of the BCH;

(xxi) In the search outputs organizes categories according to correct hierarchies;

(xxii) On the search interface, provides an explanatory note on the green arrow / expand function;

(xxiii) Promotes the use of the virtual library among BCH users (e.g. highlight the accessibility of collections via "Research4Life" in welcome messages to NFPs);

(xxiv) Solicits the provision of additional content to the virtual library from expert groups;

(xxv) Explores ways to improve the search-ability of materials in the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC);

(xxvi) Explores the possibility to facilitate interaction among detection labs (e.g. forum);

(xxvii) Explores the interest of Competent National Authorities (CNAs) in participating in the BCH on BCH forum;

(xxviii) Extends the opportunity to provide views on changes made to the BCH to additional groups other than Parties, Governments and relevant organizations (e.g. defined stakeholder groups);

(xxix) Determines if allowing access to the BCH through hand-held devices can increase general accessibility to the BCH;

(xxx) Adds an Really Simple Syndication (RSS) icon to the BCH News on the Home page;

(xxxii) Invites BCH-NFPs who receive the offline version of the BCH to provide (a) feedback on the BCH's accessibility and (b) ideas on alternative ways to make the BCH available to them;

(xxxiii) Explores ways to establish cooperative twinning initiatives among countries, as additional training means, for the better use of the BCH;

(xxxiv) Explores ways to support physical or virtual participation in regional and sub-regional workshops of the BCH II Project for countries that are not currently participating in the project. Also recommend that the BCH-II Project Manager informs the BCH-NFPs in non-participating countries that they may coordinate with the Project Manager in order to evaluate their potential participation if they are able to support their own participation to attend the meeting, depending on the availability of space;

(xxxv) Explores additional ways to support organization and wide participation in additional regional and subregional workshops on the BCH-II Project in regions and subregions that are highly under-represented or not represented at all among the limited number of project participating countries (Central and Eastern European (CEE), Central Asia, Pacific Islands) in order to fulfil requests from the COP-MOP, BCH-IAC and BCH users for global BCH capacity building activities with a special emphasis on regional and subregional levels;

(xxxvi) Coordinates with the BCH-II project to obtain information on obstacles in the use of the BCH and BCH national nodes;

(xxxvii) Further disseminates to BCH-NFPs the information that needs assessment tools are available through the BCH; and

(xxxviii) Provides the outcomes of the implementation of the above recommendations at the next meeting of the BCH-IAC.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Experts

1. Mrs. Inese Aleksejeva
Deputy Head of Division of Biotechnology and Quality
Veterinary and Food Processing Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Republikas Laukums 2
Riga LV-1981
Latvia
Tel.: +371 29675493
Fax: +371 67027205
E-Mail: Inese.Aleksejeva@zm.gov.lv, zilie.ziedi@gmail.com
2. Dr. Joachim Bendiek
Head of Unit 405: Traceability, Detection Methods, Biosafety
Clearing-House
Gene Technology
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety
Mauerstrasse 39-42
Berlin D-10117
Germany
Tel.: +49 30 18444-40500
Fax: +49 30 18444-40099
E-Mail: 405@bvl.bund.de, joachim.bendiek@bvl.bund.de
3. Mr. Mohamad Yusuff Boodoo
Divisional Scientific Officer
Agricultural Information Division
Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
Reduit
Mauritius
Tel.: +230 464 4877
Fax: +230 464 4898
E-Mail: myboodoo@mail.gov.mu
4. Ms. Sylvie Braibant
Coordinadora Programa Biotecnología
Servicio Nacional De Salud Animal
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Costa Rica
Tel.: +506 8842 6031
E-Mail: sbraibant@gmail.com
5. Ms. Julieta Fe L. Estacio
Project Development Officer IV
Head Secretariat, National Committee on Biosafety of the
Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
2nd Floor, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Tagig City
Metro Manila 1630
Philippines
Tel.: +632 837 2930
Fax: +632 837 2930; +632 837 2943
E-Mail: jfle@dost.gov.ph, zen0555@yahoo.com
6. Dr. Ho-min Jang
Director
Korea Biosafety Clearing House
Korea Research Institute of Bioscience & Biotechnology (KRIBB)
111 Gwahangno, Yusung-guDaejeon 305-806
Republic of Korea
Tel.: +82 42 879 8300
Fax: +82 42 879 8309
E-Mail: hmjang@kribb.re.kr
7. Mr. WonHee Kim
Team Manager
Korea Biosafety Clearing House
Korea Research Institute of Bioscience & Biotechnology (KRIBB)
111 Gwahangno, Yuseong-gu
Daejeon 305-806
Republic of Korea
Tel.: +82-42-879-8308
Fax: +82-42-879-8309
E-Mail: whkim7@kribb.re.kr
8. Mr. Eric Amaning Okoree
Deputy Director (Biodiversity & Biosafety Issues)
Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
P.O. Box M232
Accra, Greater Accra Region
Ghana
Tel.: +233 20 8163038
Fax: +233 21 688913 / 662 533
E-Mail: eriokor@yahoo.com, eric.okoree@gmail.com
9. Ms. Maria Andrea Orjuela Restrepo
Biodiversity, Biosafety and Information Systems Consultant -
Colombian
BCH Administrator / Biologist - Biodiversity and Conservation
MSc
Calle 46 # 13 - 06 Ap. 601
Bogota D.C.
Colombia
Tel.: +57 12854336 / 16862790 / 13112878768
E-Mail: m.andrea.orjuela@gmail.com
10. Dra. Sol Ortiz García
Director
Secretaría Ejecutiva
Comisión Intersecretarial de Bioseguridad de los Organismos
Genéticamente Modificados
San Borja 938, Colonia del Valle
México D.F. Distrito Federal - 03100
Mexico
Tel.: +52 55 55 75 76 18 etx/22
E-Mail: sortiz@conacyt.mx

11. Mr. Damien Plan
Policy Support Officer
Institute for Health and Consumer Protection
European Commission, DG Joint Research Centre
vie E. Fermi, 2749 TP331
Ispra (VA) I-21027, Italy
Tel.: +39 0332 78 6232
Fax: + 39 0332 78 5483
E-Mail: damien.plan@ec.europa.eu
Web: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/>
12. Mr. Marcus L. Richards
Agricultural Officer
Agriculture, Plant Protection and Quarantine
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Richmond Hill
Kingstown VC0100
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel.: +1 784 456 1410; +1 784 456 1300; 1 784 457 1283
Fax: +1 784 457 1688
E-Mail: ppq@gov.vc, mlrids@yahoo.com, mrichards@gov.vc
Web: <http://www.gov.vc/govt/Government/Executive/Ministries/Agriculture&Fisheries/index.asp>
13. Dr. Geof Ridley
Science Manager
New Organisms Group
Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA)
20 Customhouse Quay
P.O. Box 131
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
Tel.: +64 4 916 2426; +64 4 918 4795
Fax: +64 4 914 0433
E-Mail: geoff.ridley@ermanz.govt.nz
Web: www.ermanz.govt.nz

B. Observers

14. Ms. Nataliya Dormann
A/Chief, Plant Biosafety Management
Plant Biosafety Office
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0Y9
Canada
E-Mail: Nataliya.Dormann@inspection.gc.ca
Web: www.inspection.gc.ca
15. Ms. Ileana Lopez
Project Manager, BCH Project
Biodiversity and Land Law and Governance Unit, Division of
Environmental Law and Conventions (DELC)
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel.: +254207623473; +254207624260 ext. 5017
E-Mail: Ileana.Lopez@unep.org, icathylopez@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.unep.org>
16. Ms. Antje Lorch
Project Manager
EcoNexus
P.O. Box 1455
Oxford OX4 9BS
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Tel.: + 44 1865 725 194
E-Mail: lorch@ifrik.org
Web: <http://www.econexus.info>
17. Prof. Ernesto Ocampo, Ph.D.
BCH Specialist
BCH Project
United Nations Environment Programme, Global Environment
Facility
Avda. del Parque M36 S07 Shangrila
Ciudad de la Costa Canelones 15001
Uruguay
Tel.: +598 93709347
E-Mail: ernesto@qualisyss.com, eocampo@ucu.edu.uy;
eco091@gmail.com
18. Ms. Esmeralda Prat
Global Biosafety Manager
Regulatory Affairs
Bayer Cropscience
c/o Bayer Cropscience
Technologiepark 38
Gent B-9052
Belgium
Tel.: +32 9 335 2341
Fax: +32 9 224 0694
E-Mail: esmeralda.prat@bayer.com
19. Dr. Aleksej Tarasjev
BCH Regional Advisor on UNEP-GEF BCH Project
Department of Evolutionary Biology, Institute for Biological Research
University of Belgrade
Desota Stefana 142
Belgrade 11000
Serbia
Tel.: +381 11 207 83 76; +381 11 241 64 37
Fax: +381 112761 433
E-Mail: tarasjev@yandex.ru

20. Ms. Danielle Wood
International Affairs Officer
Office of Ecology and Conservation - Bureau of Oceans,
Environment
and Science
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington DC 20520
United States of America
Tel.: +202 736 7113
Fax: +202 736 7351
E-Mail: wooddk@state.gov

C. SCBD

21. Mr. Stéphane Bilodeau
Programme Assistant
Biosafety
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint-Jacques Street W.
Suite 800
Montreal Quebec
Canada
Tel.: +1.514.288.2220
E-Mail: stephane.bilodeau@cbd.int
Web: www.cbd.int

22. Mr. Andrew Bowers
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint-Jacques Street W.
Suite 800
Montreal Quebec
Canada
Tel.: +514 287 7021
E-Mail: andrew.bowers@cbd.int
Web: www.cbd.int

23. Mr. Giovanni Ferraiolo
Programme Officer, Biosafety Clearing-House
Biosafety Division
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint-Jacques Street W.
Suite 800
Montreal Quebec
Canada
Tel.: +1 514 287 7029
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
E-Mail: giovanni.ferraiolo@cbd.int
Web: www.cbd.int

24. Mr. Philippe Leblond
Computer Information Systems Officer
Biosafety
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint-Jacques Street W.
Suite 800
Montreal Quebec
Canada
Tel.: +1 514 287 8717
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
E-Mail: philippe.leblond@cbd.int
Web: www.cbd.int
