



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING CAPACITY FOR
NATIONAL BORDER CONTROLS ON LIVING
MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES IN THE CARIBBEAN
Saint Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, 17-19 October 2016

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decisions BS-V/9 and BS-VI/8, as well as in the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, adopted in decision BS-V/16, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) addressed the need to develop capacities of border officials in relation to handling, transport, packaging, identification, sampling and detection of living modified organism (LMOs).
2. In the light of these decisions, and with support from the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is organizing, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF) Regional Project for Implementing Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Sub-Region, a workshop for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean. The workshop will bring together customs and border-control officers, regulators nominated by their Governments, as well as resource persons familiar with existing documentation systems and scientific methods for sampling and detecting LMOs.
3. The main objective of the workshop is to introduce customs officers and other border-control personnel to the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding the documentation, handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs as well as sampling and detection techniques and methodologies. It also aims to facilitate the exchange of information and national experiences on the implementation of the identification and documentation requirements under the Protocol.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

4. The workshop will be opened at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 17 October 2016. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the UNEP-GEF Regional Project for Implementing Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Sub-Region will make opening remarks. Participants will be asked to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

5. The Secretariat will present an overview of the objectives, the programme and the expected outputs of the workshop. The workshop will include presentations by resource persons and local experts, plenary sessions for sharing of national experiences, small group discussions and interactive hands-on training sessions to introduce relevant tools and methods for identification of LMOs.

6. The provisional agenda UNEP/CBD/BS/HTPI/WS/2016/1/1 will be presented to workshop participants for adoption. The proposed programme of work for the workshop is provided in annex I below.

7. A list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex II below. Additional documents, including presentations by resource persons and country case-studies, may be made available prior to or during the workshop.¹ Participants are invited to visit the online Collaborative Portal for Customs Officials – http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/customs_art18.shtml – where additional information is available.

8. The workshop will be conducted in English.

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

9. Under this item, the Secretariat will make a presentation and show an introductory film on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety aims to contribute to ensuring the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, also taking into account risks to human health. Among its provisions, the Protocol establishes an advanced informed agreement (AIA) procedure for LMOs destined for intentional introduction into the environment to ensure that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their territory. The Protocol also establishes rules for LMOs to be used directly as food, feed or for processing. The Protocol introduces documentation and handling rules, and introduces provisions related to risk assessment and risk management. To facilitate its implementation, the Protocol establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House for Parties to exchange information and contains a number of important provisions, including capacity-building, financial mechanism, compliance procedures and public awareness and participation.

ITEM 4. CARTAGENA PROTOCOL: IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION, ILLEGAL AND UNINTENTIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS, AND BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE

10. Under this item, the Secretariat will present in more detail a number of provisions of the Protocol that are of particular relevance to border control officials. Article 18 of the Protocol requires Parties to take necessary measures to ensure that LMOs that are subject to intentional transboundary movement are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety. In this regard, it establishes requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of different categories of LMOs. These requirements have been further elaborated upon in a number of decisions adopted by the Parties to the Protocol. There are different types of commercial documentation or other documentation required by domestic regulatory and/or administrative frameworks currently in existence that are being used or could be used as documentation accompanying living modified organisms to fulfil the identification requirements of Article 18 of the Protocol. These include commercial invoices, waybills, bills of lading, phytosanitary certificates and others. This session will include presentations and case-studies on experience gained with the use of those existing types of documentation and how information on LMOs might be incorporated into them.

11. In this session, the Secretariat will also elaborate on illegal and transboundary movements of living modified organisms, as provided for in the Protocol and in various decisions adopted by the Parties to the Protocol, focusing on the relevance of these provisions to border control officials.

¹ Official documents will be available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSHTPIWS-2016-01>

12. The Secretariat will furthermore provide practical information about the functioning of the Biosafety-Clearing House and its potential use as a valuable resource for border control officials when dealing with living modified organisms.

ITEM 5. THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER-CONTROL OFFICIALS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROTOCOL

13. Under this item, the Secretariat will provide an overview of the different categories of LMOs and the different types of transboundary movements of LMOs that are covered by the Protocol and describe how LMOs might arrive at a country's borders, in what forms, by what methods of transportation and for what purposes.

14. The role of border control officials in ensuring that transboundary movements of LMOs take place in accordance with the Protocol's provisions will be discussed, by focusing on practical aspects of the role of border control officials in implementing the Protocol.

ITEM 6. NATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS (PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS)

15. Under this item, participants will be invited to make short presentations about their experiences in dealing with transboundary movements of LMOs, including experience with the identification and documentation of LMOs, as well as other related experiences, such as enforcement of phytosanitary measures. This agenda item will be facilitated by a representative of the UNEP-GEF Regional Project for Implementing Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Sub-Region.

ITEM 7. SAMPLING, DETECTING AND IDENTIFYING LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

16. Under this agenda item, a representative of the University of the West Indies will provide an introduction to sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms, including a hands-on demonstration of simple detection techniques.

17. An overview of different methods for detecting and identifying LMOs, including DNA-based methods (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods, DNA microarray) and protein-based methods (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and lateral flow strip tests) will be presented and followed by a discussion on the relative strengths and limitations of the various methods.

18. Participants will be invited to take part in a practical, hands-on detection exercise, including sample preparation, DNA isolation and extraction and analysis of LMOs. The purpose will be to provide the participants with an appreciation of the application of a simple detection technique and to demonstrate the importance of good sampling practices to ensuring the validity of the test results.

ITEM 8. SUBREGIONAL NEED AND GAP ANALYSIS (GROUP EXERCISE)

19. Based on the information presented by participants under agenda item 6, the participants will be divided in groups to identify national needs and gaps with regard to border control of LMOs. The output of the exercise will be compiled into a need and gap analysis for the subregion that will include a short description of the status of capacity in the subregion with regard to documentation, handling, transport, packaging, identification and detection of LMOs, existing gaps and needs in the subregion and at national level, as well as opportunities for improvement and recommendations to address the gaps and needs. The need and gap analysis will be annexed to the report of the meeting. This session will be facilitated by a representative of the UNEP-GEF Regional Project for Implementing Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Sub-Region.

ITEM 9. INTRODUCTION TO THE GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE AND THE E-LEARNING MODULES

20. The Green Customs Initiative (GCI) is a partnership of international organizations cooperating to detect and prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements. These include ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemical products, hazardous wastes, endangered species and LMOs. The Secretariat of the Convention is a partner in the GCI.

21. In the context of the GCI, a set of E-learning modules has been developed for border control officials on the Cartagena Protocol. These E-learning modules are important resources for participants and for colleagues in the region. The Secretariat will provide a short introduction to the background and functioning of the E-learning modules.

22. Under this item, the Secretariat will highlight the relevance of border control in the implementation of numerous multilateral agreements, not just the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

ITEM 10. E-LEARNING MODULES (GROUP EXERCISE)

23. Under this item, participants will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the E-learning modules developed in the context of the GCI and take tests on selected modules. This hands-on training is intended to serve as a summary of what has been discussed over the course of the workshop, but also to appreciate the E-learning modules as a useful tool for colleagues at home and elsewhere in the region.

ITEM 11. OTHER MATTERS

24. Under this item, other matters relevant to border control of LMOs and biosafety may be brought to the table. Participants will also be invited to complete an evaluation of the workshop.

ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

25. The workshop is expected to close by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 October 2016.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Date and time	Agenda item
Monday, 17 October 2016	
9:30 – 10 a.m.	1. Opening of the workshop
10 – 10:30 a.m.	2. Overview and objectives of the workshop
10:30 – 10.45 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
10:45 a.m.– 12 noon	3. Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
12 noon - 12:30 p.m.	4. Cartagena Protocol: identification and documentation, illegal and unintentional transboundary movements, Biosafety Clearing-House
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30 – 2.30 p.m.	4. Cartagena Protocol: identification and documentation, illegal and unintentional transboundary movements, Biosafety Clearing-House (<i>continued</i>)
2:30 – 3 p.m.	5. The role of customs and border-control officials in implementing the Protocol
3 – 3:30 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
3:30 – 4 p.m.	5. The role of customs and border-control officials in implementing the Protocol (<i>continued</i>)
4 – 5 p.m.	6. National experiences with transboundary movements of living modified organisms: presentations by participants
Tuesday, 18 October 2016	
9 – 10:30 a.m.	6. National experiences with transboundary movements of living modified organisms: presentations by participants (<i>continued</i>)
10.30 – 10.45 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	7. Sampling, detecting and identifying living modified organisms
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 – 3 p.m.	7. Sampling, detecting and identifying living modified organisms: laboratory exercise
3 – 3:30 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break

Date and time	Agenda item
3:30 – 5 p.m.	8. Subregional need and gap analysis: group exercise
Wednesday, 19 October 2016	
9 – 10:30 a.m.	8. Subregional needs and gaps analysis: group exercise 9. Introduction to the Green Customs Initiative and the E-learning modules
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	10. E-learning modules: group exercise
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 – 3 p.m.	10. E-learning modules: group exercise (<i>continued</i>)
3 – 3:30 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	11. Other matters
4:30 – 5 p.m.	12. Closure of the workshop

Annex II

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS²

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/HTPI/WS/2016/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/HTPI/WS/2016/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda

² More documents will be made available at: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art18/htpi_customs_materials.shtml