Integrating Biosafety into NBSAPs and Relevant Sectoral Policies, Plans and Programmes

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Background

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- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has its roots in the 1992 Earth Summit outcomes (Agenda 21, Chapter 16) and the CBD (Art. 19.3 and 19.4)
- CPB is the first Protocol under the CBD
- CPB is a tool for implementing the CBD, esp. Art. 8(g) and 19(4) relating to LMOs and to some extent Art. 8(h) on alien invasive species

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Background

- Art. 8(g) requires Parties to establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of LMOs likely to have adverse impacts that could affect biodiversity

Background

- Article 19.4 of the CBD requires Parties to provide available information about the use & safety regulations required in handling LMOs and information on potential adverse impacts of LMOs, to Parties into which LMOs are to be introduced

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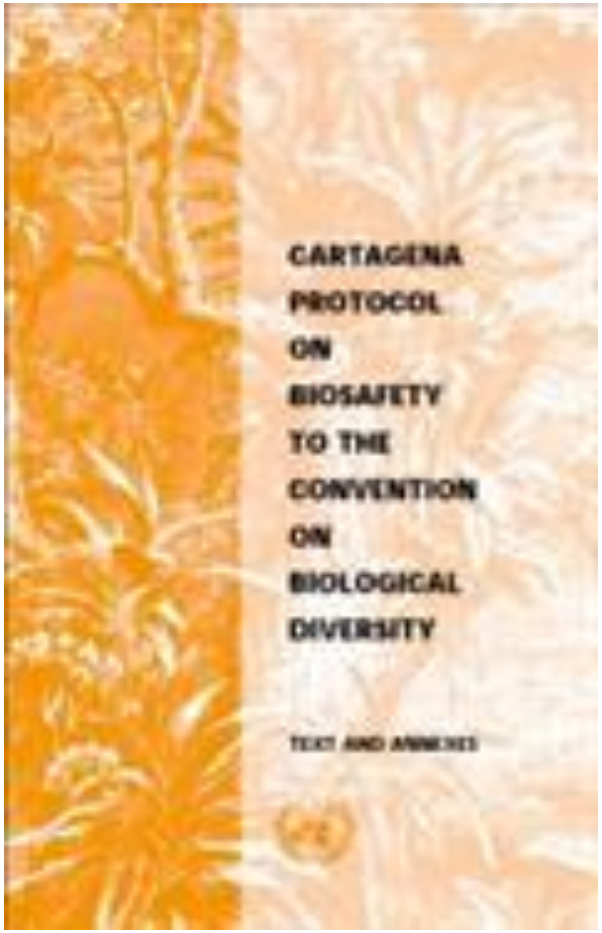
Background

Pursuant to Art. 19.3, Parties to the CBD negotiated the CPB with the objective to contribute to ensuring the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health



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Rationale for integration of biosafety into NBSAPs

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- CPB is an integral component of the CBD
- Both the CPB & CBD aim at ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Art. 8(g) focuses on ensuring the safety of LMOs within the country
- CPB focuses on the transboundary movement aspect of the effort of ensuring the safety of LMOs

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Rationale for integration of biosafety into NBSAPs

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- Implementation of the Protocol ultimately contributes to realization of the CBD objectives
- National measures for implementing the CPB and CBD obligations should be complementary/mutually supportive

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RATIONALE FOR INTEGRATION OF BIOSAFETY INTO NBSAPs

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- National measures for implementing the CPB could also be useful for fulfilling CBD obligations, e.g.
  - Principles, procedures and guidelines developed under the CPB for risk assessment and risk management may be useful in implementation of Art. 8(h) on alien invasive spp
  - Information sharing through BCH essential in facilitating implementation of Article 8(g), 19.4 and 8(h) of the CBD

RATIONALE FOR INTEGRATION OF BIOSAFETY INTO NBSAPs

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- National measures for implementing the CPB & CBD:
  - Capacity-building and awareness raising activities under the CPB and CBD could be mutually supportive
  - Research activities and facilities could be shared
- Need for synergetic implementation at all levels

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Rationale for integration of biosafety into NBSAPs

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- COP-MOP decision BS-V/16 invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to:

  (a) Review and align, as appropriate, their national action plans and programmes relevant to the implementation of the Protocol, including their NBSAPs, with the Strategic Plan for the CPB 2011-2020 and;

  (b) Allocate adequate human and financial resources necessary to expedite the implementation of the Strategic Plan

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Rationale for integration of biosafety into NBSAPs

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- Barriers impeding full implementation of CBD include:
  - Limited integration of biosafety considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes, including NBSAPs, national development plans and development cooperation policies (Second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol: UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/17)

Biosafety and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

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Biosafety issues relevant to various Aichi Targets:

- Awareness increased
- Integration into development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Sustainable agriculture
- Prevention and control of invasive alien species
- Maintaining genetic diversity
- Ecosystem restoration and conservation for climate change mitigation and desertification control

Integration of biosafety into other sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programs

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- Need for careful and appropriate consideration of the biosafety aspects in implementation of various sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes
  - The demand for sustainable production of food, fuel and fibre to meet the current and future human needs;
  - The growing use of LMOs in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other biodiversity-related sectors
  - Call for use of LMO trees for climate change and biofuels
  - Role of LMOs in food security and poverty alleviation programmes

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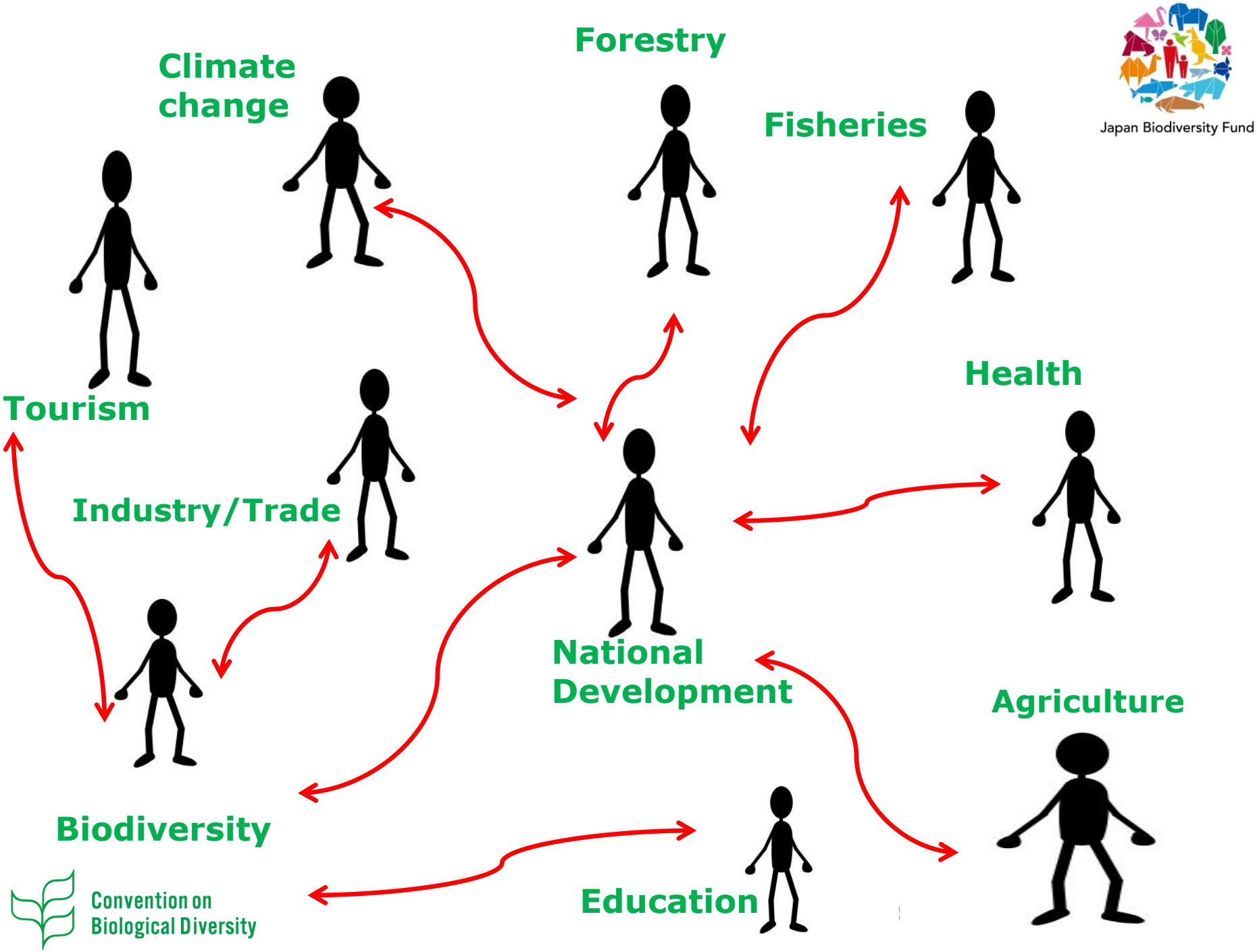
Forestry
Climate change
Fisheries
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Health
Tourism
Industry/Trade
National Development
Agriculture
Biodiversity
Education
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Cross-sectoral policies	Sectoral policies	Area based planning	Other BD & Envt. Related Plans
• Sust. Dev • National Dev. • Finance • Poverty • Land use • Trade • Intl Cooperation	• Agriculture • Fisheries • Forests • Tourism • Energy • Mining • Transport • Infrastruct. • Health • Labour • Education • …	• Coastal develop-ment • Urban areas • Sub-national • Protected Areas • Other specific territories	• Climate change (NAPAs) • Desertifi-cation (NAPs) • Redd+ • Green Economy • MEA actions

Biosafety → Sustainable Development

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Possible entry points for mainstreaming

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- Biodiversity-related sectoral policies and plans (e.g. NBSAPs)
- National spatial and/or land use plans
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation plans
- National economic and development plans, National Sustainable Development Strategies (5 or 10-year plans)
- Poverty Reduction Strategies, plans to meet the Millennium Development Goals
- Trade policies
- International cooperation policies
- National education and social plans
- Decentralized plans

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How to Mainstream Biosafety

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One of the biggest challenges

•Set mainstreaming goals and objectives - goals, objectives, and targets expected to be achieved through mainstreaming

•Identify, understand and prioritize target "entry points": priority sector(s) and policies, plans, programs to be targeted for mainstreaming (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, health, etc.)

•Identify tools to use

•Design a mainstreaming strategy (steps, timing)

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Prioritizing sectors to target for mainstreaming

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Points to consider in choosing among entry points:

•Where linkages between biosafety and sustainable development can easily be demonstrated and communicated.

•Where a lack of mainstreaming may have the greatest potential negative impacts

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Prioritizing sectors to target for mainstreaming

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Points to consider in choosing among entry points:

•Where there is a potential “champion” to help in making a case for biosafety, e.g. a new minister, influential MP.

•Where timing creates an opportunity for mainstreaming

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Situations Where Timing Creates Opportunities

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- Sector law, strategy, guideline being revised/ established (e.g. ongoing revision of NBSAPs).
- Area of importance for biodiversity is being zoned, or its use designation is being established or changed.

- Sectoral, sub-national and national budget requests and budgets are being prepared.

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Situations Where Timing Creates Opportunities

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- Change of government and/or policy.
- After a crisis/ natural hazard/conflict as part of recovery.
- When in discussions with donors (e.g. during a Country Environment Analysis etc.)
- When a country's development plan is being reviewed / planned.

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Mainstreaming Approaches and Tools

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- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
  - SEA identifies and evaluates the possible consequences of policies, plans or programs, before they are implemented
- Legal and policy instruments

- Economic and financial tools, Incentives, taxes

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Mainstreaming Approaches and Tools

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- Standards, codes of conduct, certification schemes

  Production sectors are increasingly using voluntary tools for achieving environmentally and socially sustainable practices

- Ecosystem approach:

  Could help policymakers identify how their decisions depend on, and impact biodiversity, and to understand, analyze and maximize both biodiversity and human-wellbeing benefits in their decisions

- Good practices and guidelines
- Spatial planning

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Putting Biosafety Mainstreaming into Practice

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Identify:

•Legislation or policy that will be targeted to integrate biosafety considerations into sectoral activities (e.g. Inclusion of biosafety into agricultural policies)

•Institutional arrangements that will facilitate the mainstreaming effort, (e.g. Inter-ministerial committee)

Putting Biosafety Mainstreaming into Practice

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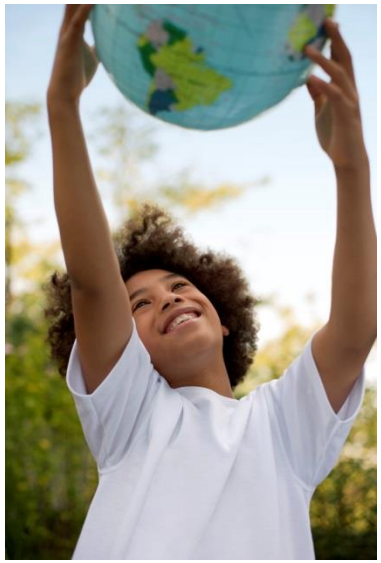
- Identify tools that will be used to integrate biosafety into sectoral plans, policies and programs
- Communication and public awareness activities that will be targeted to different stakeholders in order to gain support for mainstreaming.



Putting Biosafety Mainstreaming into Practice

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- Research that will be carried out to fill gaps in country-specific knowledge regarding biosafety and sustainable development and human wellbeing
- Capacity building needed to integrate biosafety into sectoral strategies, plans, policies and programs

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Putting Biosafety Mainstreaming into Practice

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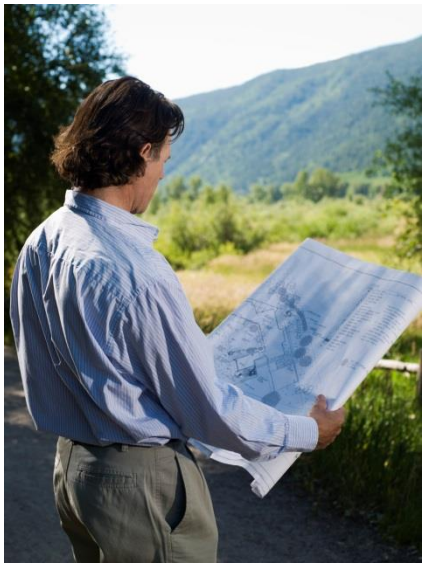
- Activities to deepen the understanding of the biosafety issues by relevant actors
- Developing the capacity of sectoral officials to meaningfully and effectively integrate biosafety issues in their planning and decision-making processes



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Putting Biosafety Mainstreaming into Practice

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- Development of indicators that will be used to assess progress made in the mainstreaming effort, e.g.:
  - No. of sectoral ministries represented on national biosafety committees;
  - No. of NBSAP activities including biosafety
  - No. of sectoral strategic plans that integrate biosafety concerns, actions taken by actors other than the environment ministry/authority to implement the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol)

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Conclusion - Way Foward

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- Need to take concrete steps to strengthen coherence between CBD and the CPB at national, regional & international levels
- NBSAPs should systematically integrate biosafety issues - identify and pursue appropriate entry points for integration

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Conclusion - Way Foward

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- NBFs should be an integral component of NBSAPs
- Maximize use of existing tools and guidelines (e.g. BCH & CHM, risk assessment guidelines)
- Foster regional and international cooperation (including through regional organizations & networks)

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Way Foward

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- Share information on experiences and lessons learned in integrating biosafety into NBSAPs and other sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes (through the CHM and BCH)

Way Foward

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- Both the CPB and CBD have moved to an enhanced phase implementation guided by the respective Strategic Plans which have the same timeframe (2011-2020) – joint monitoring and evaluation
- Foster synergetic implementation at the national level using the NBSAPs as the primary national instrument
- Decision BS-VII/9: Improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its protocols

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In the next session

- Share our practical experiences and lessons learned (+, –, ?) in development of NBFs and the integration of biosafety issues in NBSAPs and other national processes, including challenges encountered
- Clarify uncertainties
- Expand common understanding on how to integrate biosafety into NBSAPs and relevant sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, health, trade, science and technology, etc.)

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In the next session

- Identify potential entry points for integrating biosafety into NBSAPs and other policies, plans and programs
- Think about concrete next steps (e.g. awareness-raising for other sectors)
- Discuss capacity-building needs for integration
- Explore how we can collaborate in advancing biosafety integration

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