



Convention on Biological Diversity

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WORKSHOP OF THE NETWORK OF LABORATORIES
FOR THE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF
LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS
Ispra, Italy, 25 - 27 November 2013
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

1. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is an international treaty governing the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs; also known as “genetically modified organisms”) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another. The Protocol was adopted on 29 January 2000 as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity and entered into force on 11 September 2003. Since its entry into force, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP), the governing body of the Protocol, met six times. The outcomes of the deliberations by the COP-MOP are decisions aimed at assisting Parties in the implementation of the Protocol and its obligations. An overview of the COP-MOP meetings and decisions may be found at the COP-MOP page.¹
2. At its fifth meeting, the COP-MOP established, in its decision BS-V/9, an electronic network of laboratories with the view to bring together representatives of laboratories involved in the detection of LMOs for the sharing of information and experiences that could facilitate the identification of LMOs.
3. Through this Network, the COP-MOP requested the organization of online discussion fora and workshops for representatives of laboratories involved in the detection of LMOs to exchange information and experience on the implementation of relevant standards and methods involved in the identification of LMOs.
4. In response to these requests, the Secretariat organized a series of discussions under the Network of Laboratories for LMO Detection and Identification on topics that are relevant to LMO detection laboratories.²
5. Further to the online discussions and following the generous financial contribution from the Government of Japan, the “Workshop of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification

* UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-LMO/1/1.

¹ http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_mopmeetings.shtml.

² Available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_detection/discussions.shtml.

of Living Modified Organisms” will be held at the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC), Institute for Health and Consumer Protection in Ispra, Italy, from 25 to 27 November 2013.

6. The specific objectives of the workshop are to develop:

(a) A detailed implementation strategy for the detection and identification of LMOs consisting of a plan of action to assist Parties in making progress toward each of the outcomes in the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020; and

(b) A set of recommendations identifying possible key players and specific activities to assist in the implementation of the plan of action in (a) above.

7. The workshop will be conducted in English only. Documents for the workshop will be posted at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSWS-LMO-01>. Participants are requested to bring their own copies of the documents, ideally in an electronic form, to minimize the environmental impact of the workshop.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

8. The workshop will be opened by the Director of the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Ispra, Italy, at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 25 November 2013. A representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

9. After self-introductions by the participants, a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will introduce the workshop objectives and expected outcomes, and present for adoption the workshop agenda and the proposed organization of work as contained in the annex to the present document.

ITEM 3. RELEVANT ISSUES AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

10. Under this agenda item, participants will be updated on the recent developments under the Protocol which are related to the detection and identification of LMOs, including overviews of the:

(a) Relevant articles of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Risk Assessment (Article 15), Risk Management (Article 16), Unintentional Transboundary Movements and Emergency Measures (Article 17), Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification (Article 18), Information Sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House (Article 20), and Illegal Transboundary Movements (Article 25);

(b) Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020;³ and

(c) Capacity at regional and national level to detect and identify LMOs.

11. Resource persons will also make presentations with a focus on the exchange of experience and challenges in detecting unauthorised and/or unintentionally released LMOs, and gaps in current methodologies.

³ Decision BS-V/16 http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/issues/cpb_stplan_txt.shtml.

12. Each of the presentations will be followed by a short period of questions and answers and brief discussions.

13. Participants to the workshop will be invited to give a short presentation highlighting their experience and current activities in LMO detection and identification.

ITEM 4. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

4.1. *Development of an implementation strategy for the detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs)*

14. Under this agenda item several activities will take place with the view to developing an implementation strategy that will assist Parties in achieving the outcomes of the Strategic Plan for implementation of the Protocol during 2011-2020 that are relevant to the detection and identification of LMOs, as follows:

(a) Easy to use and reliable technical tools for the detection of unauthorized living modified organisms (LMOs) are developed and made available (under operational objective 1.6 of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol);

(b) Guidance developed to assist Parties to detect and take measures to respond to unintentional releases of living modified organisms (under operational objective 1.8); and

(c) Personnel are trained and equipped for sampling, detection and identification of LMOs (under operational objective 2.3).

15. Workshop participants will be invited to work in break-out groups to develop an implementation strategy that may assist Parties in achieving the outcomes in paragraph 14 above. The implementation strategy will contain a series of actions (e.g. “what”, “how” and “when”) that, if implemented, will have an impact on the indicators and bring Parties closer to the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Protocol.

16. The implementation strategy for detection and identification of living modified organisms, developed as an output of the workshop, will be put before the COP-MOP, for its consideration, at its seventh meeting, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 29 September to 3 October 2014.

4.2. *Recommendations regarding the detection and identification of LMOs*

17. Working on the basis of the implementation strategy developed under agenda item 4.1, participants will be invited to (i) identify ways through which the Secretariat and other relevant organizations can assist Parties in operationalizing the implementation strategy, and (ii) propose recommendations, identifying possible key players and specific activities, to be submitted for consideration of the COP-MOP at its seventh meeting.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

18. Under this agenda item, participants may wish to raise any other matters relevant to the implementation issues that are relevant to the detection and identification of LMOs.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the workshop on the basis of the draft report to be prepared by the Secretariat.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

20. The workshop is expected to end at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 27 November 2013.

Annex

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE WORKSHOP OF THE
NETWORK OF LABORATORIES FOR THE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION
OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

Monday, 25 November 2013

9.30 a.m.	Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)
Morning	Workshop objectives and expected outcomes (agenda item 2)
	Relevant issues and recent developments under the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety (agenda item 3)
Afternoon	Substantive issues (agenda item 4)
	Development of an implementation strategy for the detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) (agenda item 4.1)

Tuesday, 26 November 2013

Morning	Development of an implementation strategy for the detection and identification of living modified organisms (agenda item 4.1) (<i>continued</i>)
Afternoon	Laboratory tour
	Development of an implementation strategy for the detection and identification of living modified organisms (agenda item 4.1) (<i>continued</i>)

Wednesday, 27 November 2013

Morning	Recommendations regarding the detection and identification of LMOs (agenda item 4.2)
Afternoon	Other matters (agenda item 5)
	Adoption of the meeting report (agenda item 6)
Evening	Closure of the workshop (agenda item 7)
