



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/13
10 July 2010

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Fifth meeting

Nagoya, Japan, 11-15 October 2010

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 13 of decision BS-II/13, the Parties to the Protocol agreed to consider and review progress on the implementation of paragraph 1 (a) of Article 23 at their fifth meeting. In paragraph 14 of the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a synthesis report on the status of implementation of Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Parties. In order to facilitate the review, the Parties at their fourth meeting considered an interim report on the status of implementation of Article 23 of the Protocol prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/16).

2. Following the consideration of the interim report at their fourth meeting, the Parties, in paragraph 1 of decision BS-IV/17, agreed to develop a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. In paragraph 2 of the same decision, Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were invited to submit to the Executive Secretary, at least twelve months before the fifth meeting of the Parties, their views on the possible elements of a programme of work, including its operational objectives, scope of activities and outputs and modalities of implementation. The Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a synthesis of the submissions and develop a draft programme of work for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Parties.

3. Accordingly, section II of this note presents a synthesis report on the status of implementation of paragraph 1 (a) of Article 23 of the Protocol drawing on the information contained in the first national reports, the national biosafety frameworks and the information on public awareness, education and participation shared through the Biosafety Clearing-House. Section III provides a synthesis of the views

* UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/1.

/...

submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations on the possible elements of a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. The last section proposes elements of a possible decision on public awareness, education and participation. The draft programme of work developed by the Executive Secretary is contained in the annex to the present note.

II. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 23, PARAGRAPH 1 (a), OF THE PROTOCOL

4. Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol requires Parties to “Promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health”. In doing so, the Parties are required to “cooperate, as appropriate, with other States and international bodies.”

5. According to the information provided in the 88 first national reports submitted to the Secretariat as of 30 June 2010, 82 countries (approximately 93 per cent) indicated that they had promoted and facilitated public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs. Out of these, 34 countries (41 per cent) reported that they have done so to a significant extent and 48 (59 per cent) to a limited extent.

6. With regard to cooperation with other States and international bodies in implementing Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), at least 22 countries (approximately 25 per cent) reported that they had cooperated with other States and international bodies to a significant extent, while 44 countries (50 per cent) that such cooperation was to a limited extent. Approximately 22 per cent (19 countries) reported that there had been no such cooperation.

7. The status of implementation of Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), in different economic groupings was as follows:

(a) Among developing countries, out of the 53 countries that submitted national reports, 13 (25 per cent) reported that they had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent, and 36 countries (68 per cent) had done so to a limited extent and four (7 per cent) had not done so. With regard to cooperation with other States and international bodies in the implementation of Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), eight countries (15 per cent) reported they had done so to a significant extent, 24 (45 per cent) had done so to a limited extent and 19 (36 per cent) had not done so;

(b) All the seven countries with economies in transition that submitted national reports indicated that they had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a limited extent and that they had cooperated with other States and international bodies to a limited extent;

(c) Among developed countries, of the 26 countries that replied to the relevant question in their national reports, 20 (78 per cent) reported that they had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent, six countries (22 per cent) had done so to a limited extent. With regard to cooperation with other States and international bodies, 13 countries (48 per cent) reported they had done so to a significant extent and an equal percentage had done so to a limited extent.

8. The status of implementation in the different regional groupings was as follows:

(a) In the African region, out of the 23 countries that submitted their national reports, seven of them (30 per cent) reported that they had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent, 15 of them (65 per cent) had done so to a limited extent and one (5 per cent) had not yet done so.

(b) In Asia and the Pacific region, out of the 19 countries that submitted their national reports, 6 of them (32 per cent) reported that they had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent, 12 countries (63 per cent) has done so to a limited extent and one (5 per cent) had not done so.

(c) In Central and Eastern Europe region, out of the 16 countries that submitted their national reports, 6 of them (38 per cent) reported that they had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent and 10 (62 per cent) had done so to a limited extent.

(d) In Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) region, out of the 12 countries that submitted their national reports, 1 of them (8 per cent) reported that it had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent, 9 countries (75 per cent) had done so to a limited extent and two (17 per cent) had not yet done so.

(e) In the Western European and Others (WEOG) region, out of the 17 countries that responded to the relevant question in their national reports, 14 of them (82 per cent) reported that they had implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent and three of them (18 per cent) had done so to a limited extent.

9. From the above statistics it is apparent that most of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition have implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), only to a limited extent. Most of them have also cooperated with other States and international bodies only a limited extent. On the other hand most of the developed countries have implemented Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), to a significant extent.

10. In their national reports, countries outlined a wide range of activities and measures taken at various levels and on various scales to implement Article 23 of the Protocol, as follows:

(a) A number of countries reported that they have established or are in the process of enacting regulatory systems containing policy and legislative requirements for public access to information and public consultation and involvement in decision making concerning living modified organisms;

(b) Several countries reported that they established national websites, national Biosafety Clearing-House portals and/or other on-line information systems which provide the public with access to a wide range of information on biosafety such as: applications for approval, decisions taken by relevant authorities, the results of environmental risk assessment and risk management measures and regulatory frameworks;

(c) Some countries reported that they had developed or were in the process of developing specific national biosafety-awareness strategies/action plans and national biosafety awareness and education programmes as part of their national biosafety frameworks;

(d) Some countries reported that they carried out several public-awareness activities and stakeholder consultations and workshops on biosafety during the process of developing their national biosafety frameworks.

(e) Other countries reported that they actively promoted media-related activities for public awareness and education on biosafety, including interviews for newspapers, television and radio talk shows, writing articles for newspapers and magazines, publication of news releases and organization of press conferences.

11. Other activities mentioned include: organization of seminars and workshops; establishment of information centres; dissemination of publications (including biosafety newsletters, brochures, booklets and leaflets); establishment of e-mail listservs, organization of public debates, round table discussions and “citizen’s forums”, open houses; and establishment of information hotlines. Specific educational activities mentioned included: organization of introductory seminars for parliamentarians; training courses on biosafety for journalists; science media communications workshops; integration of biosafety into school curricula; and organization of site visits or field trips.

12. In their first national reports, a number of countries indicated that they are cooperating with other States and international bodies in implementing Article 23, paragraph 1 (a), through various mechanisms, including frameworks provided by related national and international instruments, particularly the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and its Almaty amendment on public participation in decisions on deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms. To date, 44 Parties to the Protocol are also Parties to the Aarhus Convention.¹ Some Parties are also utilizing the Lucca Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with Respect to Genetically Modified Organisms to enhance the implementation of Article 23 of the Protocol.² At the last meeting of the Parties in Bonn, a number of Parties to the Protocol participated in a side event on public participation in decision-making on biosafety, which was co-organized by the Aarhus Convention and the CBD Secretariat. More than 26 Parties also participated in the international workshop on access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding genetically modified organisms, which was held in Cologne, Germany, on 19-20 May 2008, shortly after the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. A joint CBD-Aarhus Convention workshop on access to information, public awareness and participation regarding living modified organisms is expected to take place, subject to available funding, in Nagoya just prior to the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

13. Since the adoption of the Protocol, a number of capacity-building initiatives have been undertaken to assist countries to implement Article 23, paragraph 1 (a). According to the information available in the projects database in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), more than half (57 per cent) of the registered capacity-building projects have components on public awareness, education and participation.³ Some of the specific activities undertaken include: training programmes to promote biosafety education (about 17 per cent), workshops and conferences to raise awareness and engage stakeholder in the decision-making process (14 per cent), establishment of national and regional databases to facilitate access to biosafety information (7 per cent) and networks to increase cooperation on biosafety issues (3 per cent). The most prominent initiatives in the database are the projects on the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). These projects have enabled many countries to undertake activities that have contributed to the implementation of Article 23 of the Protocol.

¹ The Parties to both the Protocol and the Aarhus Convention are: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

² The Lucca Guidelines are accessible at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/documents/gmoguidelinesenglish.pdf>

³ The capacity-building activities, projects and opportunities database is available at <http://bch.cbd.int/database/activities/>

14. To date, more than 111 countries have incorporated systems for public awareness, education and participation in their final or draft National Biosafety Frameworks, which were developed mostly with GEF funding and technical support by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The frameworks include a wide range tools and mechanisms for promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation, including those mentioned in paragraph 11 above. Some of the main mechanisms and strategies mentioned in the national biosafety frameworks include the following:

- (a) National policies and legal provisions on public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms;
- (b) Administrative systems for promotion of public awareness, education and participation on biosafety issues (e.g., public information and education committees);
- (c) National biosafety websites and/or databases to provide a source of information for the general public;
- (d) Institutional policies and systems for public access to information through different channels;
- (e) National strategies or action plans to promote public awareness and education;
- (f) Procedures for public consultation and involvement in decision making;
- (g) Incorporation of biosafety education into school curricular at different levels.

15. Most developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition face major challenges in implementing Article 23, paragraph 1 (a). Some of the constraints and challenges highlighted in the first national reports and in the national biosafety frameworks include the following:

- (a) Limited funding and logistical resources for public awareness;
- (b) Insufficient human resources (including professional or experienced communicators and educators in biosafety);
- (c) Limited technological capacity;
- (d) Limited availability of, or access to, awareness and educational materials on biosafety;
- (e) The diversity of languages, high cost translating available biosafety information into local languages in order to effectively inform and fully involve the public;
- (f) High level of illiteracy among various target groups;
- (g) Some public sector senior officials and decision makers are unfamiliar with biosafety issues and unaware of the legal obligations of the Protocol;
- (h) The highly scientific and technical nature of biosafety issues are not easy to explain to the general public;
- (i) The polarized debate in some countries on biotechnology and biosafety issues has made the promotion of public awareness, education and participation difficult.

16. In response to the request made in paragraph 5 of decision BS-II/13, Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations made available a total of 81 materials on public awareness, education and participation through the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC) in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) as of 30 June 2010.⁴ These include: case-studies and other reports (54 per cent), conference proceedings/papers (27 per cent), manuals/guidelines (26 per cent) and articles (5 per cent). However, in general, the number of records on public awareness, education and participation available in the BIRC remains relatively low compared to those on other issues. The BIRC currently contains more than 1,074 records.

17. From the above information, it can be concluded that some progress has been made towards the implementation of Article 23, paragraph 1(a). Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations have initiated a wide range of activities and put in place mechanisms. However major challenges still remain. It is hoped that the programme of work to be considered at the present meeting will provide a useful and effective framework to facilitate future efforts.

III. SYNTHESIS OF THE VIEWS CONTAINED IN THE SUBMISSIONS MADE BY PARTIES, OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

18. In response to paragraph 2 of decision BS-IV/17, five Parties (Burundi, the European Union, Liberia, Malaysia and Mexico) and three organizations (i.e., the Aarhus Convention, the Commission of the African Union and the Global Industry Coalition) submitted views on the possible elements of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.

19. This section provides a synthesis of the general views that were submitted. The specific text proposals for the objectives, scope of activities and outputs and the modalities of implementation have been incorporated, as appropriate, in the draft programme of work contained in the annex. The full texts of all the submissions have been compiled and are available in an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/INF/18).

20. The following general comments were made:

(a) In order to develop effective and efficient mechanisms for public awareness, education and participation, it is crucial to address the complexity and controversy associated with modern biotechnology. The need is especially greater in societies with limited resources and capacity for sustained programs, including the necessary tools and facilities to engage key stakeholders;

(b) There are a number of common problems among Parties with respect to public awareness, education, and participation. A comprehensive programme of work is necessary to identify and address these common problems in a concerted manner;

(c) A comprehensive programme of work should be developed through carrying out and considering results from an international survey on peoples' perception on the issues of living modified organisms (LMOs) to balance raising awareness of biotechnology and biosafety issues;

⁴ The Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC) is available at <http://bch.cbd.int/database/resources/>

(d) The programme of work should provide information and tools to enable Parties to make choices on how to meet their obligations to promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs rather than dictating how they must proceed. It should provide a list of options, including those considered by Parties and other Governments as best practices;

(e) In all public information, communication and participation activities, the best available information must be presented and debated publicly, openly, and transparently by scientists, in the media and in public participation events or forums. It also is necessary to make sure that the content provided to the public meets its needs, can be effectively accessed by them;

(f) The Biosafety Clearing-House should serve as one of the important mechanisms to inform and educate the public about LMOs;

(g) The programme of work on awareness, education and public participation should be centred around exchange of information; exchange of experiences and know-how; and cooperation in training and capacity-building; and

(h) Public participation makes decisions more effective, meaningful and legitimate by integrating and weighing an expansive collection of claims, values, interests, assumptions, commitments, and justifications decisions. Insights from different stakeholders play a critical role in achieving a holistic understanding of LMOs, and how they may affect human and animal health, environment, eco-systems, and social and economic systems.

21. With regard to the operational objectives, it was suggested that the programme of work should:

(a) Assist all Parties to reach a high level of public awareness and participation in a systematic and cost-effective manner, taking into account local practices and administrative systems;

(b) Identify good practice examples of public awareness, education and participation and analyse the specific advantages and disadvantages of these methods and tools in order to provide Parties and other stakeholders with a valuable basis for deciding on their own approaches;

(c) Identify mechanisms for timely dissemination of information and public participation involving the public and, in particular, developers and users of modern technology. The mechanism can be as a source for reliable information and to promote public participation;

(d) Provide training to decision-makers on how to take due account of the outcomes of public participation when making decisions regarding LMOs. Training on drafting decisions should also take place so that decisions clearly demonstrate how the outcomes of public participation have been taken into account in the decision-making; and

(e) Establish institutional mechanisms such as advisory committees that includes, *inter alia*, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations promoting environmental protection.

22. In general, the programme of work should promote a system related to capacity-building efforts, information sharing, and public participation in decision-making regarding living modified organisms. The programme of work should be clear, focused and outcome-oriented and should facilitate the process of identifying and addressing common needs and challenges in a concerted manner. It should also facilitate the identification and exchange of good practices and experiences with the use of different methods and tools for public awareness, education and participation.

IV. ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE DECISION

23. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may wish to:

(a) Adopt the programme of work on programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms as contained in the annex below;

(b) Invite Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to implement the programme of work and share their experiences and lessons learned through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

(c) Decide to undertake a comprehensive assessment and review of the programme of work at its eighth meeting;

(d) Request the Global Environment Facility to provide financial resources to eligible Parties to facilitate effective implementation of the programme of work;

(e) Urge developed country Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to provide additional support to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the programme of work;

(f) Establish an informal advisory committee on public awareness, education and participation concerning biosafety to provide advice and guidance on the implementation of the programme of work;

(g) Invite the Executive Secretary to establish an online portal to facilitate support for the programme of work.

Annex

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION CONCERNING THE SAFE TRANSFER, HANDLING AND USE OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS (2011-2015)

Programme element 1:

Capacity-building for the promotion of public awareness, education and participation

Goal: To strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of Parties to promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.

<i>Operational objectives</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Suggested activities</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actors</i>
1.1 To put in place enabling legal and/or policy frameworks and mechanisms to facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved understanding of the country needs and measures to address those needs. Improved national competence on issues related to public awareness, education and participation. Studies and/or surveys carried out to identify the needs of Parties with respect to public awareness, education and participation. Parties and other relevant stakeholders are implementing biosafety outreach strategies/ communication plans. National laws related to Article 23 in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Parties that have policy and legal frameworks on public awareness, education and participation in place. Number of Parties with outreach strategies and/or communication plans. 	(a) Take stock of and make use of existing regulatory frameworks, mechanisms and structures relevant to public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms.	Within Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties (NFPs) Relevant organizations
			(b) Assess the national needs with respect to public awareness, education and participation and identify measures to meet those needs.	Within year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties
			(c) Establish or strengthen legal and policy frameworks to facilitate public awareness and access to information.	Within year 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties
			(d) Prepare and implement biosafety outreach strategies and/or communication plans.	Within year 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties Other Governments Relevant organisations
1.2 To establish institutional mechanisms to promote and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional administrative structures and arrangements are in place to facilitate public awareness, education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Parties with units or departments and other institutional 	(a) Designate contact points within national authorities responsible for promoting and overseeing public awareness, education and participation.	Within year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties

<p>facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms.</p>	<p>and participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional roles and responsibilities for public awareness, education and participation identified. • Institutional procedures and mechanisms for public access to biosafety information in place. • Capacity-building initiatives for developing administrative structures have been identified and established. • Increased understanding and collaboration with relevant international agreements and processes. 	<p>structures designated to promote public awareness, education and participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Parties engaged in collaborative activities. • Number of Parties with funding to improve institutional mechanisms. 	<p>(b) Establish or make use of existing biosafety outreach units, information centres and other outreach services at the national level.</p>	<p>Within year 2-3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Relevant organizations
			<p>(c) Establish or make use of existing advisory committees on public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms.</p>	<p>Within year 1-3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties
			<p>(d) Promote collaboration with relevant international agreements and processes involved in public awareness, education and participation (e.g., the Aarhus Convention, the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness under the Convention on Biodiversity).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Other Governments • SCBD • Relevant organizations
			<p>(e) Mobilize financial resources to develop institutional capacity.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Other Governments • SCBD • Relevant organizations
<p>1.3 To develop the professional capacity of personnel involved in promoting public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts in biosafety education and communication identified and added to roster of experts. • Increased number of biosafety educators and/or communicators at various levels. • Support tools (including guidance toolkits, best practice handbooks, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of experts in biosafety education and communication nominated to roster of experts. • Number of academic programmes with components on biosafety education and communication. • Number of training, guidance materials 	<p>(a) Identify experts on biosafety education and communication and add them to the roster of experts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties
			<p>(b) Develop and deliver training programmes for biosafety educators and communicators at global, regional and national levels.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Educational institutions • Relevant orgs
			<p>(c) Establish a system to facilitate the development and exchange of biosafety training and guidance materials on PAEP, including toolkits, training aids and templates.</p>	<p>Within year 2-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • SCBD

	<p>widely available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosafety educators and communicators receiving ongoing professional support and guidance. 	<p>and other supportive activities to build professional capacity.</p>	<p>(d) Promote professional exchanges, twinning and fellowship programmes for staff involved in promoting public awareness, education and participation</p>	<p>Within year 2-3; Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties Other Governments Relevant organizations
<p>1.4 To strengthen the use of media in promoting public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved media coverage of biosafety issues and the Protocol. Improved understanding and communication of biosafety issues by the media. The media is playing a key role in raising public awareness of issues and fostering active public participation in a timely and accurate manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of media houses consistently covering biosafety issues. Number of Parties with media outreach strategies and liaison mechanisms. Number of media outreach activities. 	<p>(a) Develop and implement national media strategies and plans to foster effective use of different media communication channels, as appropriate, to raise public awareness.</p>	<p>Within year 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties (CNAs) SCBD
			<p>(b) Identify and maintain media contact, including through press-related activities and dissemination of media outreach materials</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties Relevant organisations SCBD
			<p>(c) Organise regular media training workshops and seminars on biosafety, (e.g., online as well as on a national level and local level)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties SCBD
<p>1.5 To promote collaboration and sharing of experiences and resource materials on public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms for collaboration and sharing of experiences between countries and regions with regard to public awareness, education and participation in place. Networks established to facilitate ongoing exchange of experiences and lessons learned. Best practices and lessons learned of public participation documented and shared (e.g., through the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC) and national sources). Improved skills/knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of case-studies and other materials on public awareness, education and participation produced and shared through the Biosafety Clearing-House. Number of networks established and/or utilised to exchange information and materials. Number of Parties and other stakeholders in 	<p>(a) Identify, document and exchange through the BCH case-studies on best practices and lessons learned in promoting public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs.</p>	<p>Within Year 1; Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties Other Governments Relevant organizations SCBD
			<p>(b) Use the BCH to exchange information on best practices and lessons learned in promoting public awareness, education and participation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties Other Governments Relevant organizations
			<p>(c) Share experiences on the use of different communication tools (e.g., printed material, radio and television programmes, newspapers and cultural performances for community outreach).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties Other Governments Relevant organizations
			<p>(d) Establish and operationalize networks and organize forums, (e.g., online forums and listservs) to facilitate exchange information, experiences and</p>	<p>Within year 2-5; Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties Regional bodies

	<p>on using tools to raise awareness.</p>	<p>different sectors are sharing information.</p>	<p>lessons learned on national approaches to public awareness, education, and public participation, (e.g., BCH, national nodes, regional or local)</p>		
			<p>(e) Establish a mechanism to facilitate the development and exchange of biosafety educational and awareness materials in the local language.</p>	<p>Within Year 2 - 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP-MOP
			<p>(f) Identify and promote possible synergies in the application, as appropriate, of relevant tools developed under other for a, such as the Almaty Amendment to the Aarhus Convention and the Lucca Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with Respect to Genetically Modified Organisms.</p>	<p>Within Year 1 - 3 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties
			<p>(g) Establish a register of closely related non-governmental organisations to the Protocol.</p>	<p>Within Year 1 - 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • SCBD

Programme element 2: Public awareness and education

Goal: To promote broad public awareness and education of issues concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms

<i>Operational objectives</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Suggested activities</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actors</i>
2.1 To promote public awareness concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey report from Parties regarding level of awareness and public perception • National public awareness plans and programmes • National coordination between the actors. • Awareness material, including newsletters produced and disseminated • Agreements signed between the owners of copyrights and the Secretariat and interested Parties • System for dissemination of biosafety information established by Parties. • Public awareness seminars and workshops held. • Media is actively involved in public awareness and education on biosafety • The Protocol and other biosafety materials translated into local languages • Biosafety communication programmes using art and culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistically meaningful number of responses from surveys by the end of 2011. • Number of national public awareness plans and programmes in place by the end of 2013. • Number of cooperation and coordination programmes and other activities in place. • Number of publications and other materials produced and disseminated. • Public availability of graphics and materials in the Biosafety Clearing-House. • Number of Parties that will have systems for dissemination of information in place by 2015. • Number of seminars and workshops held 	(a) Conduct baseline surveys to ascertain the level of public awareness and evaluate public perception of the issues regarding LMOs. Parties may expand the survey based on national priorities and needs.	Within Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • SCBD to develop the survey forms in different languages
			(b) Develop and implement public awareness plans and/or programmes, taking into account the survey results.	Within year 1-3; Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties (CNAs) • Relevant organisations
			(c) Foster cooperation and coordination of public awareness and education activities.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Civil society and industry • SCBD
			(d) Produce and disseminate biosafety awareness materials (e.g., newsletters and information on laws), and copyright free graphics tailored to specific target audiences and used in awareness and educational activities.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties, biosafety communication experts • SCBD
			(e) Establish systems to facilitate timely announcement (e.g. in newspapers, town halls/public notice boards, public libraries, national websites and other means), of field trial and commercials releases of LMOs in accordance with national legislation.	Within year 2-3 Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties, responsible authorities.
			(f) Organise public awareness seminars and workshops on biosafety for targeted audiences, including dissemination of presentations, materials.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties, responsible authorities. • Relevant Orgs
			(g) Encourage the use of media to promote awareness of biosafety awareness of biosafety.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Media

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of media activities implemented • Number of Parties that have translated the Protocol and other materials in the official national and local languages. 	(h) Translate the Protocol and biosafety awareness materials into national and local languages and/or using visual representation of the Protocol.	Within year 3-5 Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Civil society
			(i) Promote use of social communication strategies, e.g. art and culture.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties, relevant authorities
<p>2.2 To promote education concerning living modified organisms through formal academic institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosafety issues integrated into school curricula • Many academic institutions offering programmes/courses on biosafety • Educational packages, including e-learning modules, on biosafety made available to schools and the public, including for entertainment and networking purposes • Libraries and educational institutions offer a wide range of educational materials and outreach activities on biosafety. • Competitions and contests on biosafety launched. • Civil society involved in promotion of biosafety awareness and education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of school curricula that have included biosafety issues. • Number of academic programmes/courses including biosafety issues. • Number of e-learning modules developed • Number of educational materials and packages on biosafety available. • Number of biosafety competitions and contests launched. • Number of educational events in collaboration with educational institutions. 	(a) Integrate biosafety into the curricula and educational strategies for different levels of formal education	Within year 2-3; Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Educational institutions
			(b) Encourage universities and other educational institutions to offer academic programmes, including continuing education courses, in biosafety and biosafety communication	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Educational institutions
			(c) Develop educational packages on biosafety for schools, informal education and research institutes to promote awareness and education on biosafety issues.	Within year 2-5; Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Educational institutions
			(d) Develop e-learning modules on biosafety for all educational levels.	Within year 2-5 Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational institutions
			(e) Ensure that libraries of educational institutions offer a wide range of relevant educational materials and outreach activities on biosafety.	Within year 3-5 Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Educational institutions
			(f) Sponsor competitions and other events for school children, to raise awareness of biosafety issues.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Educational institutions
			(g) Foster formal and informal collaboration partnership with educational institutions to raise awareness and establish joint educational activities.	Within year 3-5 Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties, • Civil society

Programme element 3. Public access to information

Goal: To improve public access to information concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms

<i>Operational objectives</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Suggested activities</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actors</i>
3.1 To promote public access to biosafety information in a broad, easy and timely manner, including through the Biosafety Clearing-House, national websites and other mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public easily finding and accessing the desired biosafety information through the Biosafety Clearing-House, national websites and other mechanisms. • The public receiving responses to requests for access to information within reasonable time. • Information materials are accessible in various languages and in user-friendly formats. • Members of the public have access to multiple relevant online and offline biosafety information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Parties with established procedures for public access to biosafety information. • Number of Parties with national Biosafety Clearing-House nodes or biosafety websites. • Number of information materials available in different languages. 	(a) Inform the public of their right to access information under the Protocol in written, electronic and other formats.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • Civil society • SCBD
			(b) Inform the public about the available means of access to information in the Biosafety Clearing-House, the national nodes and other mechanisms.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • SCBD
			(c) Establish and/or improve infrastructure to facilitate open public access to biosafety information (e.g. national websites, national Biosafety Clearing-House nodes).	Within year 2-4; Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties
			(d) Put in place information alert systems to advise the public about new available information.	Within year 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties
			(e) Review the information available through the Biosafety Clearing-House and other mechanisms to assess its level of accessibility to the public/non-experts and the extent to which it meets the public expectations.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • SBCD
			(f) Establish procedures to make biosafety information available to the public in accordance with the national laws and the obligations under the Protocol, including paragraph 6 of Article 21.	Within year 1; Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties • SBCD

Programme element 4. Public participation					
Goal: To promote public participation in decision-making regarding living modified organisms					
<i>Operational objectives</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Suggested activities</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actors</i>
4.1 To establish mechanisms and procedures to consult and involve the public in the decision-making process regarding modified organisms and to make the results of such decisions available to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms and entry points for public participation are identified and put in place • The role of the public in the decision-making process is defined/ clarified • The right of public participation in decision-making regarding LMOs guaranteed in national laws and the public is well informed about that right. • Timely and informed participation of the public in decision-making processes. • Safeguards established to ensure regular, transparent and objective public consultation/ participation. • National biosafety laws guarantee the right public participation in decision-making regarding LMOs. • National biosafety laws require public notice and comment on applications regarding LMO imports and releases. • Funds allocated for public involvement in the decision making regarding LMOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of regulatory regimes containing clear reference to public participation • Number of Parties with mechanisms for public participation • Number of Parties with a review mechanism for public participation, including outcomes of public consultations. • Number of individuals participating in discussion forums, platforms and other mechanisms set up. • Number of Parties that have involved the public in the development and review of their legal biosafety frameworks. • Number of Parties with dedicated budgets for public 	(a) Establish or strengthen legal frameworks to facilitate public participation in decision-making regarding living modified organisms.	Within Year 1 - 4	• Parties
			(b) Establish institutional and administrative mechanisms to facilitate public participation in decision-making regarding living modified organisms.	Within year 1-3	• Parties
			(c) Put in place mechanisms to notify the public, in a timely and effective manner, about planned public consultations and opportunities to participate in decision-making regarding new LMO applications (e.g., announcements on national websites or local newspapers).	Within year 2-3	• Parties
			(d) Develop and implement public participation action plan.	Within year 1-2	• Parties
			(e) Develop operating procedures to guide the public participation process.	Within year 2-3;	• Parties
			(f) Establish platforms (e.g. public hearings, e-forums, mailing lists etc) to facilitate public comments, feedback and appeals regarding applications for field trials and commercial releases.	Within year 2-3; Ongoing	• Parties
			(g) Establish or strengthen mechanisms/bodies to monitor and foster regular, transparent and objective public consultation and participation.	Within year 3-5; Ongoing	• Parties

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public support for the Protocol is broadened. • Parties and other stakeholders are proactively engaging the public. • Comments and opinions from the public are adequately reflected/ considered in the decisions on LMOs. • The public's input are made available in a timely matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation. • Number of Parties taking outcomes of public participation in consideration in decision-making regarding LMOs. • Number of Parties making available public consultations. 	(h) Promote collaborative initiatives to train decision-makers on utilizing outcomes of public participation, including outlining the public inputs in decisions.	Ongoing	• Parties
			(i) Make resources available for public involvement in the decision making process regarding LMOs.	Ongoing	• Parties
			(j) Inform the public of their right to participate in the decision-making processes regarding LMOs.	Ongoing	• Parties
