Development of a national Clearing-House Mechanism, Experiences from African and European countries

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Content of the presentation

- **History of Belgian partnership**

- **Developing a CHM**

- **A CHM website ?**

- **Lessons learned from other countries**

History of the Belgian Partnership for the CHM

1998-2000

- Demand from DRCongo to develop their CHM website – site launched in 1998
- Demand from Chad for training of their CHM NFP on CHM website – site launched in 2000
- Several other demands for training in building web site

History of the Belgian Partnership for the CHM

2000-2008

- Projects funded by the Belgian development cooperation
- Training and hosting CHM websites for 20 countries and 3 regional organisations (Mainly African countries)
- User-feedback → looking for CMS that is userfriendly, multi-lingual, multi-user
- 2006 starting use of the EC CHM Portal ToolKit (PTK)

History of the Belgian Partnership for the CHM

2008-

- Continued training and hosting of currently 24 countries (Be training, national training, regional training)
- Project calls for CHM reinforcement : E.g. development of special sections, internet connection, bulletins, and more
- Project calls for public awareness

- 2008 – present: can only work with countries that are official partners of Belgian development cooperation or through regional organisations

Developing a national CHM

Nominate a CHM focal point :

Who? (Person, institution, NGO)

Official mandate ! (decree, law, other legal form)
- Role
- Cooperation with biodiversity community
- Deliverables
- Steering committee?
- CHM strategy ?

Developing a national CHM

Nominate a CHM focal point (continued) :

Time allocation (Full time, 1 – many persons)

Budget allocation ?

Development of own activities

Cooperation with existing initiatives/projects

Developing a national CHM website

Target audiences:
- Policy makers,
- Biodiversity community
- General public
- Educational sector

Structure of the site

Language

Role of partners

Developing a national CHM website

Choose a Content Management System (CMS)

Updating

Archiving

Network role

Lessons from other national CHMs

Choose the right person(s) !
- Integrated within biodiversity community
- Good communication skills
- Time allocation
- Dynamic
- Biology$\leftarrow\rightarrow$IT background ?

Continuity
- 2-4 years contract
- If no team, other person

Lessons from other national CHMs

Good working environment :
- **Internet connection**
- **PC, camera, scanner**
- **Central location**

Better one good section on the site that is regularly updated than many almost empty ones

Avoid duplication of efforts

Thanks for your attention