



*Regional Workshop for the Caribbean Countries  
on the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)*

*16-20 September 2013 Gros Islet, Saint Lucia*



***Work Programme for the  
Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)***

*Olivier de Munck  
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# *Strategic Plan's Vision of the CHM*

## VI. Support Mechanisms, Paragraph 22

- Collectively those involved in implementing the Convention have a **wealth of experience** and have developed many useful **good practice cases, tools and guidance**. There is additional useful information beyond this community.
- A **biodiversity knowledge network** will be developed including a **database and network of practitioners**, to bring together this knowledge and experience and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism to facilitate and support enhanced implementation of the Convention.
- **National clearing-house mechanism** nodes comprising **networks of experts with effective websites** should be developed and sustained so that in each Party, all have access to the information, expertise and experience required to implement the Convention.
- **National clearing house mechanism** nodes should also be **linked to** the **central clearing-house mechanism** managed by the Convention Secretariat, and **information exchange** between these should be facilitated.

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## Decision X/15 – CHM Mission

*To contribute significantly to the implementation of*

- the Convention on Biological Diversity*
- and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*

*through*

- effective information services*
- and other appropriate means*

*in order to promote and facilitate*

- scientific and technical cooperation,*
- knowledge sharing,*
- and information exchange*

*and to establish a fully operational network*

*of Parties and partners*

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## *Decision X/15 – CHM Goals*

### 3 Goals representing 3 levels of implementation

1. *The central CHM provides effective global information services to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*
2. *National CHMs provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the NBSAPs*
3. *Partners significantly expand the CHM network and services*

→ CHM Mission, Goals and Objectives in decision X/15  
[www.cbd.int/chm/strategy](http://www.cbd.int/chm/strategy)

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## *CHM Objectives per Goal*

Objectives contributing to the achievement of each goal:

1. **Sustainability:** always a key factor
2. **Website:** the main visible product
3. **Information exchange:** the clearing-house engine
4. **Networks of experts and practitioners:** the human dimension
5. **Guidance and support:** to assist Parties and partners

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# *Structure of the CHM Work Programme*

## Document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31

- **Focus**
  - Contribution to the Strategic Plan, the NBSAPs and the Convention
  - 3 important aspects: efficiency, requirements & sustainability
  - Divided into intersessional periods (between COP 10 y COP 15)
- **Strategic context**
  - CHM Vision based on the Strategic Plan
  - Articulated into a CHM mission, goals and objectives (X/15)
- **For each CHM goal**
  - Scope
  - Purpose
- **For each objective under each goal**
  - Recommended activities
  - Rationale

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## *Goal 1 - Objectives*

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1. *The central CHM provides effective global information services to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.*
  - 1.1. The CBD Secretariat has the capacity to sustain an effective central CHM.
  - 1.2. A high-quality CBD website is available in all United Nations languages.
  - 1.3. Effective information exchange services are fully operational.
  - 1.4. The CBD Secretariat facilitates the development of a network of experts and practitioners among Parties and partners.
  - 1.5. Guidance is available for Parties and partners to exchange information through the clearing house mechanism network.



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## *Objective 1.1 - Activities*

### 1.1. The CBD Secretariat has the capacity to sustain an effective central CHM.

- 1.1.1. Maintain a list of priority activities to be undertaken on the central CHM, taking into account progress made, available capacity, and evolving needs to enable, inter alia, the COP, at each of its meetings, to review progress and, as necessary, adjust the activities.
- 1.1.2. Establish processes to monitor the development and effectiveness of the central CHM.
- 1.1.3. Ensure that the Secretariat has the capacity to further develop and maintain the CBD website and other modern information services of the central CHM.
- 1.1.4. Ensure that the Secretariat has capacity to manage knowledge and information, including terminology and documentation management.
- 1.1.5. Identify, assess, and adopt appropriate publicly-available tools or services that increase the capacity and sustainability of the central CHM in a cost-effective manner.
- 1.1.6. Optimize the process of maintaining the CBD website in all United Nations languages by making sound use of modern translation technology.

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## *Objective 1.2 - Activities*

1.2. A high-quality CBD website is available in all United Nations languages.

- 1.2.1. Prepare a web content strategy for the CBD website in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and keep it in line with decisions adopted by the COP.
- 1.2.2. Maintain and improve the CBD website and its related portals in terms of content, services, appearance, user-friendliness, usability and accessibility taking into account user feedback.
- 1.2.3. Make the CBD website available in all United Nations languages.
- 1.2.4. Ensures that the CBD website evolves in accordance with its web content strategy.

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## *Objective 1.3 - Activities (1/2)*

### 1.3. Effective information exchange services are fully operational.

- 1.3.1. Expand the knowledge base in a way that allows easy access and cross-references by continuously incorporating Convention-related information such as decisions, work programmes, targets, indicators, implementation activities, online sources, reference documents, case-studies, best practices, training materials, organizations, experts, contacts, events, maps, multimedia resources, and other relevant items.
- 1.3.2. Integrate collaboration tools in a user workspace encouraging Parties, experts, practitioners, and other stakeholders to maintain contact, share ideas, and work together, while providing quick access to information directly related to each user's role and activities.
- 1.3.3. Implement the online submission system as the update mechanism of the knowledge base and the collaboration tools in order to enable Parties and all stakeholders to make contributions related to the Convention and its implementation.

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## *Objective 1.3 - Activities (2/2)*

### 1.3. Effective information exchange services are fully operational.

- 1.3.4. Implement specialized information services in accordance with decisions adopted by the COP.
- 1.3.5. Expose data held by the central CHM through modern interfaces based on open standards as a way to facilitate access to information about the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 1.3.6. Provide tools enabling national CHMs to automatically access and display relevant information from the central CHM.
- 1.3.7. Continue to develop and use information exchange services to make Convention-related information easily and widely accessible, in line with technological and social trends.

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## *Objective 1.4 - Activities*

1.4. The CBD Secretariat facilitates the development of a network of experts and practitioners among Parties and partners.

1.4.1. Establish a user-friendly online networking platform for national focal points, experts, practitioners, and other relevant contacts to encourage participation.

1.4.2. Promote networking of Parties and partners by linking the central and national CHMs.

1.4.3. Explore opportunities to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation for the implementation of the Convention.

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## *Objective 1.5 - Activities*

1.5. Guidance is available for Parties and partners to exchange information through the CHM network.

1.5.1. Establish and publish specifications to exchange information through the CHM network, including interoperability protocols, common formats, controlled vocabularies, application programming interfaces, and other technical guidelines.

1.5.2. Provide guidance to Parties and partners on how to exchange information through the clearing house mechanism network, including on the data submission and validation processes.

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## Goal 2 - Objectives

*2. National CHMs provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the NBSAPs.*

2.1. All Parties have the capacity to sustain effective national CHMs.

2.2. High-quality national CHM websites are available.

2.3. National information is exchanged through the CHM network.

2.4. Parties collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network.

2.5. Partners and the CBD Secretariat have contributed to the development of national CHMs.

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## Activity Groups

Code	Group
Coor	National Coordination
Strat	National Strategy
Web	Web Content
Tech	Technical Aspects
Serv	Information Services
Coop	Cooperation
Work	Workshop



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## Objective 2.1 - Activities

### 2.1. All Parties have the capacity to sustain effective national CHMs.

- Coor** 2.1.1. If not yet done, designate, as soon as possible, a **national focal point** for the CHM, as requested by paragraph 7 of decision II/3.
- Coor** 2.1.2. Identify a **national structure**, as appropriate, to coordinate the development of the CHM with participation of relevant biodiversity-related organizations and stakeholders.
- Strat** 2.1.3. Prepare a realistic national implementation **strategy** for the CHM, where appropriate, preferably as a component of the NBSAP, based on identified needs and anticipated resources.
- Coor** 2.1.4. Mobilize and allocate **resources** for strengthening the institutional capacity to implement the national CHM and for sustaining its operations.
- Web** 2.1.5. Define **roles and responsibilities** for collecting, reviewing and disseminating information, managing website content, and for outreach activities, where appropriate.
- Tech** 2.1.6. Identify, assess, and **adopt appropriate tools or services** that increase the capacity and sustainability of the national CHM in a cost-effective manner.

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## Objective 2.2 - Activities

### 2.2. High-quality national CHM websites are available.

Strat

2.2.1. Prepare a web content **strategy** for the national CHM serving as a key means for the implementation and review of the NBSAP, including by providing information on implementation activities, scientific data, expertise, and technologies.

Web

2.2.2. If not yet done, establish a national CHM providing **basic information** on national contacts, and on biodiversity in the country.

Web

2.2.3. Identify relevant **content and information sources** at the national level and promote them through the national CHM, in line with the web content strategy.

Serv

2.2.4. **Maintain and improve the national CHM website** in terms of content, services, appearance, user-friendliness, usability and accessibility taking into account users' feedback.

Tech

2.2.5. Whenever appropriate and feasible, make the national CHM website available in various **national and local languages**.

Coor

2.2.6. Whenever appropriate and feasible, further develop the national CHM at the **sub-national or local level**.

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## Objective 2.3 - Activities

2.3. National information is exchanged through the CHM network.

Tech

2.3.1. Whenever possible, develop information exchange mechanisms **with relevant national sources** of biodiversity information, making use, whenever applicable and appropriate, of well-established open standards.

Tech

2.3.2. Whenever feasible and appropriate, make use of tools to **exchange information with the central CHM**.

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## Objective 2.4 - Activities

### 2.4. Parties collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network.

- Coor** 2.4.1. Undertake a national biodiversity **knowledge management** initiative that identifies knowledge needs and sources for the implementation of NBSAPs.
- Strat** 2.4.2. Ensure that there is a **repository to preserve key knowledge** on the implementation of NBSAPs.
- Coor** 2.4.3. Develop a **knowledge-sharing culture** to ensure that information and knowledge from various national sources is effectively provided and published on the national CHM.
- Coor** 2.4.4. Whenever possible, develop links between the national CHM and **existing networks**.
- Serv** 2.4.5. Encourage the use of the national CHM as a **tool to dialog** with the civil society, major groups and stakeholders in line with the national strategy for communication, education and public awareness.
- Serv** 2.4.6. Whenever possible, facilitate **international collaboration** initiatives, including scientific and technical cooperation, South-South or North-South cooperation.

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## Objective 2.5 - Activities

2.5. Partners and the CBD Secretariat have contributed to the development of national CHMs.

Work

2.5.1. Provide **guidance** to Parties on how to develop their national CHMs, taking into account a variety of implementation options.

Work

2.5.2. Organize **capacity-building workshops** to assist Parties in developing their national CHMs, including through organizations which are present and active at the national or regional levels, and based on the special capacity-building needs of developing countries and on the status of their national CHMs.

Coop

2.5.3. Encourage **collaboration initiatives**, including South-South and North-South cooperation, as well as regional networking to further develop national CHMs.

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## *Goal 3 - Objectives*

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*3. Partners significantly expand the CHM network and services.*

3.1. Partners can sustain their participation in the CHM.

3.2. High-quality regional and thematic CHM websites are available.

3.3. Partner information is exchanged through the CHM network.

3.4. Partners collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network.

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## *Objective 3.1 - Activities*

### 3.1. Partners can sustain their participation in the CHM.

- 3.1.1. Identify the benefits of participating in the CHM in line with the organization's mandate and strategy.
- 3.1.2. Designate an appropriate contact or focal point for the CHM.
- 3.1.3. Mobilize and allocate resources for contributing to the CHM.

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## *Objective 3.2 - Activities*

### 3.2. High-quality regional and thematic CHM websites are available.

3.2.1. Establish or further develop regional CHMs that contribute to the development of national CHMs.

3.2.2. Establish or further develop thematic CHMs that contribute to thematic programmes of the Convention.



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## *Objective 3.3 - Activities*

### 3.3 Partners collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network.

- 3.3.1. Collaboratively investigate ways for partners to make their Convention-related information accessible through the CHM.
- 3.3.2. Establish, through technical collaboration, information services enabling global access to relevant information from the Rio conventions and other multilateral environment agreements.
- 3.3.3. Develop, through technical collaboration between the Secretariats of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, an interoperability mechanism that facilitates access to information on GEF-funded projects related to the implementation of the Convention.

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## *Objective 3.4 - Activities*

### 3.4. Partners collaborate and share knowledge through the CHM network.

- 3.4.1. Whenever possible, undertake initiatives to generate, capture, organize, package or transfer information and knowledge relevant to the implementation of the Convention.
- 3.4.2. Contribute to the knowledge base by submitting information related to the implementation of the Convention, such as projects, case-studies, and other relevant resources.
- 3.4.3. Encourage experts and practitioners to participate in the communities of practice related to their expertise.

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## *Final Comments*

- Well-defined strategic context
  - Important supporting role of the central CHM  
Under restructuring to provide better services
  - Many possible activities for national CHMs  
To be determined based on national priorities and capacity
- How to have the best impact with the available capacity?
- Questions and comments

*Thank you*



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