

International Workshop

“Information and Participation: Information Management for Sustainable Use and Biosafety”

La Habana, Cuba, March 4-8, 2001

52 participants from 18 countries and organisations: Alemania, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, México, Nicaragua, Perú, Rep. Dominicana, Uruguay, Venezuela, AMA, BfN, CITMA, GTZ, IES, UNEP-WCMC, UNDP-BPSP.

Recommendations Working Group I:

“CHM: information system to improve decision making and participation on national and regional level”

To the governments:

1. To develop legislation to implement the CHM and assure its long-term continuity, according to their capacities.
2. To consider the inclusion of the CHM as an issue in their international cooperation negotiations.
3. To include information exchange as a relevant part of international cooperation proposals and projects which should be linked to the CHM.
4. Decision-makers should identify critical information that needs to be developed under CHM in the context of the main issues of the CBD.
5. To promote contents related to other thematical initiatives such as other conventions and agreements like Climate Change, CITES, CMS, SIMEBIO, NABIN, SPAW, etc.

To National Focal Points:

1. To consider a holistic approach in the implementation of the CHM such as the ecosystem approach and the three objectives of the CBD.
2. To promote the participation of NGOs and other stakeholders in the implementation of the CHM and the understanding of the CBD, with special focus on the local level, including the development of appropriate material.
3. To identify and evaluate user needs, and respond to those needs trough the CHM.
4. Identify indicators in order to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the CHM.
5. Promote on national level the CBD and the benefits of the CHM among different users with special enfasis on desicion'makers, stakeholders and the general public.
6. To support the publication of scientific information that give content to the CHM.

7. To extent the use of existing tools (like software: BIOTICA, REMIB).
8. To demonstrate a practical example of how the CHM can facilitate decision making through a regional or subregional cooperation process.
9. To include the issues of the second national reports of the CBD into the contents of the CHM.

To financial agencies:

1. To promote meetings to exchange practical experiences among CHM NFPs.
2. To develop fundraising strategies to implement the CHM (governments, cooperation agencies, GEF, others.).
3. Request that cooperation agencies consider institutional capacity building and biodiversity information as important issues.
4. Support regional workshops that promote the exchange of experiences and technical developments among NFPs, such as fires, REMIB, SIMEBIO, BIOLINK, BIOTICA, etc.

Recommendations to the CBD:

1. To forward the conclusions of this workshop to the next meeting of IAC of the CHM at SBSTTA 6, through the IAC representatives of the GRULAC Region (Jamaica and Colombia).
2. Promote an equal development among the NFPs of the region.
3. Recommend to the secretariat of the CBD to search for alternative and more effective financial sources to support the implementation of the CHM, taking into consideration the special characteristics of the region.

La Habana, Cuba March 8, 2001