



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/CHM

9 March 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee
Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Montreal, Canada
9 March 2003

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

The meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held on 9 March 2003, at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada.

1. Registration of participants will commence at 9:00.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary at 9:30 on Sunday 9 March 2003.

Item 2. Organizational Matters

Item 2.1. Adoption of the agenda

3. The draft provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/CHM) addresses all issues referred to in: Decision VI/18, Annex II of Decision V/14, the CHM Strategic Plan, recommendations made by the SBSTTA at its sixth meeting of 12-16 March 2001, and recommendations made by the IAC at its meeting of 11 March 2001. It also addresses the participation of the CHM in the development and implementation of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). The meeting may wish to adopt the agenda with such amendments as may be agreed upon.

Item 2.2. Organization of Work

4. The meeting will consider the proposed organization of work contained in Annex I below. The meeting may also wish to decide on the nature of the report of the meeting.

Item 3. Operational procedures for the informal advisory committee

5. Agenda Item 3 contains two sub-items, which correspond to issues arising from decision V/14, paragraph 8 and paragraph 9. Accordingly, it is proposed that this item of the agenda should cover the following elements:
- a. Review of the continuation and mandate of the informal advisory committee
 - b. Development of operational procedures for the informal advisory committee

Item 4. Progress report on implementation of activities identified in decision V/14, annex II, decision VI/18, the CHM Strategic Plan, SBSTTA recommendations and IAC recommendations

<u>The Clearing-house Mechanism Matrix of Work</u>			
The Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/3), Informal Advisory Committee Meeting (11 March 2001 & 11 November 2001) Recommendations, Conference of the Parties V/14 Decisions and CHM Activities and Accomplishments Strategic Plan*			
<u>Strategic Plan*</u>	Informal Advisory Committee Recommendations (11 March 2001 & 11 November 2001) and SBSTTA6 Recommendations	COP Decisions V/14, Annex II COP Decisions VI/18	CHM Activities and Accomplishments
<p><u>* The Strategic Plan has 3 goals: (1) Cooperation, promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation; (2) Information exchange; (3) Network development. Each recommendation below is preceded by the goal under which it appears in the Plan.</u></p>			
<p>Goal 3: Promote use</p>	<p>Ensure that information</p>	<p>(a) Develop ways</p>	<p>New CHM Brochure</p>

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of the CHM. Obj 7.1.4	<p>available on the CHM reaches the scientific community.</p> <p>Stress the need for more engagement and interactivity—the CHM should receive as well as disseminate information.</p> <p>Emphasize the need for the CHM to participate in all program areas.</p> <p>Publish more written information on the CHM.</p> <p>Reach audiences in addition to the scientific community</p> <p>Contribute to fostering public awareness and education about the Convention</p> <p>Complete updating all programmes and issues sections of the CBD web site</p> <p>Draft paper on synergies and differences between the CHM and the BCH</p>	and means to ensure a broader understanding of the role of, and the value added by, the clearing-house mechanism.	<p>was published..</p> <p>Launch of new web site.</p> <p>Developed automatic news dissemination mechanism.</p> <p>Developing new mechanisms for the public to communicate with the SCBD.</p> <p>Programmes and issues page revised and updated</p> <p>Paper on synergies and differences between the CHM and the BCH being drafted</p> <p>Drafted communications plan for the Secretariat</p>
Goal 3: promote use of the Clearing-house Mechanism Obj7.1.5	Use non-web, non-electronic tools to reach regions with inequitable access to new information technologies	(b) Further develop non-Internet-based tools and training packages to assist	<p>Developed Toolkit for use with the Biosafety Clearing-House</p> <p>Developing CHM</p>

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	Non-web information tools should be developed parallel with the development of new web-based tools	Parties in their national implementation efforts. COP VI/18 Recommends that the Executive Secretary update and further develop the clearing-house mechanism tool kit	Toolkit from BCH toolkit Developing structured vocabularies for public use Installed fax server Toolkit being developed in collaboration with the European Community, the Governments of Belgium and the Netherlands and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Goal 3: Rely on partnerships and focus on facilitation. Strat 7.2.4	Study joint programs with the GISP and other similar initiatives in the creation of thematic focal points. SBSTTA6: VI/4, A,4c, 22. Decides that the clearing-house mechanism will be used to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation on the topics listed under paragraph 21 above, in order to enhance the ability of the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate scientific and technical	(c) Identify and establish cooperative arrangements with those international thematic focal points that can provide relevant and appropriate thematic information, using the following criteria:	Finalized an MOU with GISP to act as a thematic focal point. Organized and convened a meeting with the GISP to discuss implementation of a global invasive species network. Joined the GISP Information Management Committee as co-Chair Establishment of NatureServe as an international thematic

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	<p>cooperation, and invites the Executive Secretary to explore further with the Global Invasive Species Programme the potential for the latter to be an international thematic focal point for the clearing-house mechanism, in accordance with annex II (c) of decision V/14;</p> <p>Establish new international thematic focal points with relevant initiatives and organizations</p>		<p>focal point.</p> <p>Discussions with Birdlife International to establish and international thematic focal point</p> <p>Discussing with Indigenous groups the establishment of an indigenous thematic focal point pursuant to 8(j)</p>
<p>Goal 3: Provide start-up assistance and ongoing capacity. Strat 7.2.1</p> <p>Goal 3: Address obstacles to growth. Strat 7.2.2</p>	<p>Assist in the promotion of training programs in developing regions.</p> <p>Emphasize capacity building, particularly education and training.</p> <p>Participate in new CHM/BCH regional workshops</p> <p>Whenever possible, include local expertise in capacity building workshops</p>	<p>(d) Convene regional workshops to support capacity-building for clearing-house mechanism activities, training and awareness, with a focus on cooperation in biodiversity information for the implementation and management of the clearing-house mechanism at the national,</p>	<p>Assisted in the organization and presentation of a joint BCH/CHM regional capacity building workshop in Africa.</p> <p>Organized CHM Latin American/Caribbean workshop</p> <p>Participated in GISP capacity building workshop in Latin America.</p> <p>Assisted in the organization of and participated in the Southern Africa Regional Training</p>

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		<p>subregional, bio-geographic and regional levels, as appropriate.</p> <p>COP VI/18 Urges the Executive Secretary to convene additional capacity-building workshops at the national, subregional and regional levels</p>	<p>Workshop on the Establishment and Operationalisation of the Commonwealth Knowledge Network and the Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-house Mechanism</p> <p>Participated in Regional Biosafety Capacity Building Workshops in Africa, Latin America and Asia</p> <p>Additional capacity-building workshops planned for Africa, GRULAC, CEE and Asia. Discussion ongoing on organization of joint GRLAC workshop with IABIN and joint CEE workshop with the European Community</p>
Goal 1: Promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation	<p>Focus on the use of the CHM to promote technical and scientific cooperation, particularly within the work programme of invasive alien species and the ecosystem approach.</p> <p>Seek advice from SBSTTA on the</p>	(e) Develop a pilot initiative to assist work on the thematic issues within the work programme of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological	<p>Collaborating with the GISP on the implementation of a Global Invasive Species Information Network</p> <p>Discussing with WCMC a protected areas/marine and coastal protected areas</p>

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	<p>development of new CHM initiatives to promote technical and scientific cooperation.</p> <p>Seek close links with the GISP, and discuss joint work initiatives.</p> <p>Continue to focus on technical and scientific cooperation</p> <p>Complete the CHM/GISP “Building a Global Invasive Species Information Network” document</p>	<p>Advice, including:</p> <p>COP VI/18 Requests the Executive Secretary to commission a review to assess the current and potential role of the clearing-house mechanism in promoting technical and scientific cooperation, including its role in facilitating the transfer of technology and know-how and capacity-building to support implementation of the Convention</p> <p>Urges the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with existing international networks of indigenous and local communities and,</p>	<p>project.</p> <p>Drafting with the GISP “Building a Global Invasive Species Information Network” document. First draft completed. Second draft completed.</p> <p>Draft report for and participated in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and Clearing-House Mechanism, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 24 - 26 February 2003</p>

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		as appropriate, national focal points, to assist in the further development of communication networks for use by these communities	
Goal 1 Obj 5.1.5 strat 5.2.3	Contact the UNDP concerning a survey on information access in technologically underprivileged areas. Participate in the GEF/UNEP Sustainable Alternatives Network	(f) Propose options for improving ways and means by which the clearing-house mechanism can facilitate access to and transfer of technology.	Discussing with the Belgian CHM focal point mechanisms and training programs for the transfer of expertise to developing areas. Established MoC with the GEF/UNEP Sustainable Alternatives Network Discussed with UNDP surveys on information access
Goal 1: Track Best Practices, Needs and Priorities for Collaboration. Strat 5.2.1 Goal 2: Track information needs, priorities and best practices. Strat 6.2.2 Goal 2: Prioritize and promote expansion in		(g) Develop a list of best practices and identify potential functions to be recommended for implementation by clearing-house mechanism national focal points.	Established MoC with the GEF/UNEP Sustainable Alternatives Network

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content. Strat 6.2.3 Goal 3: Concentrate on value added. Strat 7.2.5			
Goal 2: development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity Strat 6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.4 Goal 2: Ensure compatibility through standardization and interoperability. Strat 6.2.1 6.2.2 Goal 3: Maintain local ownership of information. Strat 7.2.4	Examine the question of interoperability among CHM National Focal Points. Constitute a core group to examine metadata and common formats, and to report to the next IAC meeting. Continue to further develop controlled vocabularies and metadata standards	(h) Identify possible formats, protocols and standards for the improved exchange of biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge, including national reports, biodiversity assessments and Global Biodiversity Outlook reports, and convene an informal meeting on this issue	Using the Dublin Core as the metadata standard for the CHM and BCH web pages. Constituted a core group to examine the issue of metadata. Working with experts to develop metadata guidelines. Organized and convened an Informal Meeting on formats, protocols and standards for improved exchange of biodiversity-related information.
Goal 3: development of the Clearing-house Mechanism focal points and their partners strat 7.2.2 7.2.3	Examine the need to produce information in different languages Draft questionnaire on status of implementation of National CHMs	(i) Identify options and explore cooperative arrangements to overcome language barriers affecting the use of the clearing-house	New web page was designed to accommodate all six UN languages. The Biosafety Clearing-House has been created to accommodate all six UN Languages.

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		<p>mechanism, including the development or consolidation of tools and services.</p> <p>COP VI/18 Invites Parties to use effectively the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism and to establish or strengthen national, subregional or regional focal points for the clearing-house mechanism</p>	Questionnaire under development
<p>Goal 2: development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity strat 6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.2</p>	<p>Review the usability of the EC's electronic virtual collaborative environment, the Circle.</p> <p>Review the success of the Mountain Forum, and explore whether any design components can assist in the work of the CHM.</p>	<p>(j) Develop a publicly accessible global electronic platform for scientific and technical cooperation in biodiversity on the Internet matching the demands and needs of Parties in accordance with Article 18 of the Convention.</p>	<p>Established MoC with the GEF/UNEP Sustainable Alternatives Network.</p>

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Goal 2: development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity strat 6.2.1 6.2.3 6.3.4	IAC will link with the CBD web site from remote locations and report on access problems.	(k) Encourage the establishment and maintenance of mirror sites of the Convention's website, within the other United Nations regions, as appropriate, in order to improve access to Internet-based information	Has requested assistance from IAC to ascertain if mirror sites are still required.

Item 5. Briefing on the Biosafety Clearing-House

6. Item 5 discusses two sub-items corresponding to Article 20.1 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

- 5.1 Summary of work completed on interoperability standards
- 5.2 Summary of work completed on capacity-building initiatives

Item 6. Preparation for the next meeting of the IAC

7. The meeting will consider the organization of its work prior to the next meeting, drafting of the agenda for its next meeting and decide the date and venue, particularly in regard to technical and scientific cooperation and the establishment of thematic focal points.

- 6.1 Draft provisional agenda
- 6.2 Tentative date and venue

Item 7. Other matters

8. The meeting may wish to consider other matters agreed upon for consideration.

Item 8. Closure of the meeting

9. The meeting will be closed on Sunday 9 March 2003 at 17:00.

Annex I

Provisional organization of work for the Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee
To the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Montreal, Canada
9 March 2003

Date and time	Agenda items:
<p><u>Sunday</u> <u>9 March 2003</u> 9:00 to 17:00</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening of the meeting2. Organizational matters:<ol style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Adoption of the agenda2.2 Organization of the work3. Operational procedures for the IAC<ol style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Review of the continuation and mandate of the informal advisory committee (decision V/14, paragraph 8)3.2 Development of operational procedures for the informal advisory committee (decision V/14, paragraph 9)4. Progress report on implementation of activities identified in decision V/14, annex II, decision VI/18, the CHM strategic Plan, SBBSTA recommendations and IAC recommendations5. Briefing on the Biosafety Clearing-House<ol style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Summary of work completed on interoperability standards5.2 Summary of work completed on capacity building initiatives6. Preparation for the next meeting<ol style="list-style-type: none">6.1 Draft provisional agenda6.2 Tentative date and venue7. Other matters8. Closure of the meeting
