



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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ENGLISH ONLY

Meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee
Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Bangkok, Thailand
6 February 2005

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 Sunday, 6 February 2005, in Bangkok, Malaysia.

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

Item. 1. Opening of the meeting

- 2 The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary at 9:30AM on Friday, 13 February 2004.

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 proposals contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/12, *Results of the independent review of the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity*. It also addresses all other issues referred to in: Decision VII/23, scientific and technical cooperation and the Clearing-House Mechanism, and decision VII/29, transfer of technology and technology cooperation,. 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. Discussion on implementation of items related to decision VII/23: Scientific and technical cooperation and the Clearing-House Mechanism

5. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider activities to implement items related to the independent review of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/12) and recommendations from the Asia and Pacific regional meeting on the Clearing-House Mechanism, held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 5 February 2004. Participants are also welcomed to comment on the use of the IAC Collaborative Portal which was established to facilitate work by the IAC.
6. Participants may also propose and discuss additional issues not necessarily anticipated by the Secretariat.
7. The meeting will consider items related to decision VII/23, including:

Decision VII/23	Actions completed to date
Paragraph 6: <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to use the clearing-house mechanism, in collaboration with the informal advisory committee, to continue to strengthen collaboration with international partners and organizations for review at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to report on that collaboration, including an elaboration of the relative roles of the clearing-house mechanism and information facilities dealing in particular with taxonomic databases including, IABIN (Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network) hubs, BioNet LOOPs (Locally Owned and Operated Partnerships), NatureServe CDCs (Centres for Data Conservation), nodes of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and Species 2000 and the Integrated Taxonomic Information System's Catalogue of Life;	The Integrated Taxonomic Information System and Species 2000 participated in the Informal meeting on interoperability of information among the three Rio and other environmental conventions, held in Montreal, November 2004. The CHM joined the Global Biodiversity Information Facility expert group on information and communication technologies.
Paragraph 7, items a-g: <i>Also requests</i> the Executive Secretary to:	

(a) Update the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism to 2009, in collaboration with the informal advisory committee, for consideration by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;	(a) Work on updating the strategic plan is ongoing. A section on the IAC Collaborative Portal was created for this item.
(b) Convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional workshops as a catalysing mechanism to allow for the interaction of international thematic focal points with the national focal points to further enhance the scientific and technical cooperation goal of the clearing-house mechanism and to build capacities at the national level with regard to use of and access to new information technologies;	(b) The Asia and Pacific regional meeting on the Clearing-House Mechanism was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3-5 February 2005. A GRULAC regional meeting is planned for March 2005.
(c) Update the clearing-house mechanism toolkit to be used as a meta-toolkit, linking the different existing toolkits with a view to optimize their resources and assist users to choose the most appropriate technology;	(c) Work on updating the CHM toolkit is ongoing. A section on the IAC Collaborative Portal was created for this item.
(d) Examine ways to develop regional portals to visualize and exchange national and regional cartographic information (geographic information systems and remote-sensing) from all thematic areas (including maps, satellite images and datasets);	(d) The informal meeting on interoperability of information among the three Rio and other environmental conventions, held in Montreal, from 2-3 November 2004, discussed this item. Recommendations are available in document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IM-Interop/1/2
(e) Advise on ways the clearing-house mechanism can assist to make relevant information interoperable among the three Rio conventions for review at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	(e) An informal meeting on interoperability of information among the three Rio and other environmental conventions was held. A working plan was agreed upon, and recommendations arising from the meeting are available in document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IM-Interop/1/2
(f) Develop an Internet-based web portal on island biological diversity to integrate, into the existing clearing-house mechanism, information on relevant programmes or initiatives such as the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet), the Coastal Regions and Small Islands-UNESCO, the Small Islands Voice and the small island developing states activities programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;	(f) The portal is under development and should be completed before February 2005.
(g) Further enhance the sections on the Convention's website related to the programme areas and cross-cutting issues, by applying the lessons learned from the development of the Biosafety Clearing-House, especially its use of common formats, protocols and standards, to increase interoperability of data and information	(g) The entire Convention website was re-designed and the infrastructure improved to facilitate the searching, locating and retrieving of information.

Paragraph 8: Calls on the Informal Advisory Committee to assess the results of the independent review of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/12) and assist the Executive Secretary on measures and actions to be undertaken to strengthen the clearing-house mechanism's role 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 at the national level.	A section on the IAC Collaborative portal was created to assist the IAC in this task. The CHM will compile comments made for presentation during the meeting.
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Item 4. Discussion on implementation of items related to decision VII/29

8. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider activities to implement items related to decision VII/29, technology transfer and technology cooperation., particularly the role of the Clearing-House Mechanism as the central mechanism for exchange of information on technologies.
9. The meeting will consider the following items:

Decision VII/29	Actions completed to date
Paragraph 6, items a-c: <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to convene the informal advisory committee of the clearing-house mechanism, further to decision V/14, to assist the Executive Secretary, including through electronic consultation and long distance communication, to:	
(a) Provide advice on the development of proposals on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism as a central mechanism for exchange of information on technologies, as a core element in its role to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, and for facilitating technology transfer and cooperation and to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and for technologies that make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment;	The programme officer responsible for technology transfer has been invited to participate in the IAC Collaborative Portal, and will raise issues related to this and other items. A section has been created on the IAC Collaborative portal to compile comments made by the IAC related to implementation of this item. A project has been established with the Intellectual World Property Organization (WIPO) to make available information on patents pertaining to relevant technologies.
(b) Develop guidance for implementation by national clearing-house mechanism nodes for common or similar frameworks for identifying the availability of relevant technologies to enhance international cooperation and to facilitate the interoperability with	Same as above

relevant existing systems of national and international information exchange, including technology and patent databases;	
(c) Assist in the implementation of proposals for enhancing the clearing-house mechanism as a central mechanism for exchange of information on technologies, as a core element in its role to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, and for facilitating and promoting technology transfer and cooperation and for the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation as adopted by the Conference of the Parties.	Same as above

Item 5. Other matters

- (d) The meeting may wish to consider other matters agreed upon for consideration.

Item 6 Closure of the meeting

- (e) The meeting will be closed on Sunday, 6 February 2005 at 6:00PM.

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

Bangkok
6 February 2005

Sunday

6 February 2005

9:30AM to 1:00PM

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1 Adoption of the agenda
 - 2.2 Organization of the work
3. Item 3. Discussion on implementation of items related to decision VII/23: Scientific and technical cooperation and the Clearing-House Mechanism

2:00PM to 6:00PM

4. Item 4. Discussion on implementation of items related to decision VII/29
5. Other matters
6. Closure of the meeting
