



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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### MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Paris, France  
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#### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision VIII/11, the Conference of the Parties adopted a multi-year strategic up to 2010 plan and a corresponding programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism with a view to contribute to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.
2. The present document reports on the status of implementation of this programme of work, based on the information currently available at the Secretariat. This is a partial report mainly focusing on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the eighth Conference of the Parties. The main sections of this document provide a narrative description of the activities whereas Annex I presents a summary table that follows the structure of the programme of work.

#### II. ACTIVITIES

##### *Website and web-based applications*

3. As the Secretariat's website is the major information exchange tool of the clearing-house mechanism, it deserves special attention to ensure that it can adequately fulfill its mission. Taking into account several factors, such as web user feedback, the Secretariat's new outreach strategy, and recent advances in web technologies and standards, a web enhancement initiative has been undertaken to launch a new version of the website on the International Biodiversity Day (22 May 2007). A significant change is the adoption of the new domain name *cbd.int* which illustrates the international dimension of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Former domain name *biodiv.org* is being maintained for backward compatibility and security.

4. To address the various issues involved in this initiative, tasks were grouped into three major categories: (a) technical tasks; (b) layout and branding tasks; and (c) content-related tasks. Technical tasks were carried out by the ICT team. They consisted in strengthening ICT infrastructure components, such as the implementation of an improved content management system, and the development of web applications required to support the programme of work of the Convention. The objective of the layout and branding tasks, under the responsibility of the Outreach and Major Groups unit, was to define a branding policy for the Secretariat and apply it to all outreach mechanisms and products, including the website. Content-related tasks including the creation and editing of content were completed by programme officers and other relevant staff members using the new content management system.

5. From a managerial perspective, there is a need to establish a dedicated web team including a full-time a web content manager to ensure quality control through a well-defined approval and review process. Additional support for translation and graphical design is also needed but resources are currently limited.

6. Several web portals and other web-based systems were developed to support the implementation of other programmes of work:

- (a) The Traditional Knowledge Information Portal (TKIP): <http://www.cbd.int/tk>.
- (b) The Biodiversity and Tourism Network Portal: <http://tourism.cbd.int>.
- (c) The Climate Change Adaptation Planning Database: <http://adaptation.biodiv.org>.

7. Further to a proposal made by several Parties to group national clearing-house mechanisms under a common Internet domain name to strengthen the feeling of an international network, domain name *chm-cbd.net* has been acquired by the Secretariat. This common domain can coexist with current web addresses through alias names or mirror sites. It also allows transparent national web hosting by other countries, whenever necessary. The recommendation is to identify each national clearing-house mechanism by its ISO 3166-2 country code (e.g.: cc.chm-cbd.net where cc is the country code). The main website of this new domain ([www.chm-cbd.net](http://www.chm-cbd.net)) is currently under development and will be used to exchange experiences and facilitate cooperation among national CHMs.

### *Capacity-building activities*

8. Activities 1.1.1 to 1.1.3. of the Strategic Plan request the CBD clearing-house mechanism to organize technical workshops on new information and web-based technologies, taking into account the special needs of indigenous and local communities, with the participation of experts to better integrate the work of clearing-house mechanism in the implementation of the Convention. Such activities were possible thanks to the financial support of the Governments of the Netherlands and Spain, and the Belgian CHM Partnership with African Countries. A total of four workshops were held:

- (a) Sub-regional training workshop on the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism, held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, 6-17 November 2006 (Belgian Partnership).
- (b) Capacity-building workshop on networking and information exchange for national focal points and indigenous and local communities in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, held in Quito, Ecuador, 14-16 December 2006 (SCBD).
- (c) Sub-regional training workshop on the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism, held in Rabat, Morocco, 5-16 March 2007 (Belgian Partnership).
- (d) Brainstorming workshop for the identification of a strategy for the Belgian CHM Partnership for the Period 2008-2012, held in Brussels, Belgium, 2-3 May 2007 (Belgian Partnership).

### ***Collaboration with relevant initiatives and partners***

9. The Clearing-House Mechanism was invited to the *Global Expert Group Meeting on Environmental Information Networking*, held on 22-23 May 2006 at the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen, Denmark. Its objective was to review *Environment Watch* proposal as a component of the implementation of the *Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building*, adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP in its decision 23/1 of 25 February 2005. Contacts were established with members of the African Environmental Information Network to discuss potential synergies with the CHM.

10. The Clearing-House Mechanism was also represented at a series of three meetings on *Knowledge Management for Biodiversity-Related Conventions* held on 13-16 June 2006 in Cambridge, United Kingdom, to discuss the implementation of several UNEP projects, including the *issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)*, and the harmonization of national reporting. These meetings resulted in the formulation of a project entitled "*Strengthening the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions through the strategic use of information: knowledge management among MEA*" aiming at improving information exchange and harmonizing reporting among CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar and AEWA. The project is currently under execution by UNEP-WCMC.

11. This collaboration falls under of the Multi-Year Programme of Work for UNEP-WCMC assistance in implementing COP-8 decisions, and more specifically Activities 6.1 to 6.3 on the Clearing-House Mechanism:

- (a) Activity 6.1: Provide assistance to the Executive Secretary in implementing the Updated Strategic Plan of the CHM for the Period 2005-2010 and the Programme of Work for the CHM up to 2010.
- (b) Activity 6.2: Provide assistance to the CHM regarding new information technologies and electronic tools.
- (c) Activity 6.3: Develop a programme for providing technical support services to Parties.

12. In relation with objective 2.5 of the CHM strategic plan aiming at the establishment of effective mechanisms for facilitating the exchange of information which adhere to common formats, protocols and standards, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) are working together to develop a collaborative effort to improve international standardization in the domain of biodiversity conservation. A joint IUCN-OASIS workshop on Biodiversity Conservation Standards was held in Gland, Switzerland on 19 April 2007 to discuss the need for comprehensive biodiversity conservation standards and determine further steps in this process.

### ***Transfer of technology and technology cooperation***

13. In accordance with decision VIII/12, steps have been initiated to enhance the exchange of information on technology transfer through the development of an online database and search tool for technologies that can contribute to the implementation of the Convention. Additional information, such best practices, existing partnerships and cooperative agreements will also be included in this database.

14. To the extent possible, the database will rely on interoperability mechanisms to automate data retrieval from existing sources. Technical contacts with three partner organizations operating such databases have been established: the European Innovation Relay Centres (IRC Network), the German Cleaner Production Database and UNFCCC. Funds have been allocated to recruit a consultant that will design and implement an online system that will search and merge the results from all three external databases.

### *Biosafety Clearing-House*

15. Development of the Biodiversity Clearing-House proceeded as planned by COP-MOP and under the guidance of BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC). Further details are available in the documentation of the BCH-IAC meetings. At the Secretariat, there has been an ongoing collaboration effort to develop synergies between the BCH and the CHM at a technical level, such as shared application modules and adoption of similar standards.

### *Communication, education and public awareness*

16. Since COP-8, the Secretariat has been making an unprecedented effort to increase communication, education and public awareness, by targeting specific audiences, disseminating information (including newsletters and multimedia products), organizing special events and discussion forums, and preparing the celebration of the International Biodiversity Day on biodiversity and Climate Change. Many of these activities have been supported by the Clearing-House Mechanism and are reflected in new sections of the CBD website.

17. In addition, a CEPA training toolkit is being prepared in collaboration with IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and a request for financial support has been submitted to the Government of the Netherlands to further develop the global communication, education and public awareness network.

### *Other initiatives*

18. The clearing-house mechanism has been involved in the following initiatives:

- (a) The synthesis of the third national reports;
- (b) UNEP ICT Task Force;
- (c) SCBD Management Review.

19. As requested by decision VIII/14, paragraph 18(b), A synthesis of information contained in the third national reports has been prepared to identify barriers to implementation and options for overcoming those barriers. As far as the clearing-house mechanism is concerned, the synthesis of Articles 17 and 18 was carried out in April 2007 and is available in document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2007/1/INF/1. The findings have been taken into account in the preparation of the proposals to enhance the role of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2007/1/3).

20. In addition to the specialized portals referred to in paragraph 6 above, the CBD secretariat has been developing training modules and other guidance related to implementation of NBSAPs and preparation of national reports. The CHM is envisaged to play an expanded role in disseminating such information as part of the enhanced phase of implementation, as further discussed in document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2007/1/3.

21. Under its new leadership, UNEP is taking steps to develop a coherent strategy for information and communication technology (ICT) to improve the organizations performance. To support this effort, the Executive Director has established a Task Force to conduct a strategic review of the ICT priorities and constraints and to develop short and medium term action plans for upgrading and integrating UNEP's ICT. The clearing-house mechanism has been contributing to this effort by providing comments and answering questionnaires.

22. With the Convention entering the enhanced implementation stage, the Secretariat is reviewing its operations to assure its ability to deliver under this new stage. In this context, an internal management review task force has been established to make recommendations for improving the structure of the Secretariat. The clearing-house mechanism is involved in this process and has been emphasizing various essential roles to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity.

### III. COMMENTS AND CONCLUSION

23. One year after the adoption of the programme of work of the clearing-house mechanism up to 2010 by the Conference of the Parties, several activities have been completed while others have yet to be undertaken. This programme of work is ambitious and faces the following challenges:

- (a) The execution of some activities will depend on the voluntary funding made available by the Parties. The need for predictable financial resources is required, including through the core budget of the Convention.
- (b) The capacity of the Secretariat should be strengthened to enable it to effectively carry out its activities.
- (c) Prioritization of activities is recommended in order to ensure the best possible impact under limited resources.
- (d) There is a lack of information at the Secretariat on activities undertaken by Parties. The focal point of the CHM should keep the secretariat informed on a regular basis on activities undertaken for the implementation of their programme of work.

24. Further details on how to cope with these challenges are available in document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2007/1/3 entitled "*Proposals for the enhancement of the clearing-house mechanism*".

## ANNEX I - STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CHM PROGRAMME OF WORK

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism is promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism contributes to the implementation of the Convention and particularly the achievement of the 2010 target</b>
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</i></b>
1.1.1.	Organize joint technical hands-on workshops with partners and international thematic focal points on new information and web-based technologies to assist in the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the special needs of indigenous and local communities <u>Status:</u> The following workshops were held: - Sub-regional CHM training workshop in Madagascar (Antananarivo, November 2006). - Joint CHM-Article 8(j) capacity building workshop on networking and information exchange (Quito, December 2006). - Sub-regional CHM training workshop in Morocco (Rabat, March 2007). - CHM Brainstorming workshop on the identification of a strategy for the implementation of the Belgian CHM Partnership for the period 2008-2012 (Brussels, May 2007)
1.1.2.	Invite programme officers and other experts to participate in clearing-house mechanism workshops to better integrate the work of clearing-house mechanisms with work related to implementation of the Convention <u>Status:</u> - Done through 1.1.1.
1.1.3.	Invite Parties to contribute technical expertise to technical workshops and training courses <u>Status:</u> - Done through 1.1.1.
1.1.4.	Develop collaborative tools and systems, including web-based systems and in particular the island biological diversity portal, to assist Parties in the implementation of cooperative activities and work <u>Status:</u> The following portals were developed: - Traditional Knowledge Information Portal - Biodiversity and Tourism Network - Climate Change Adaptation Planning Database.
1.1.5.	Make available the issue-based modules for coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity <u>Status:</u> - In collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, as part of UNEP's knowledge management project. - Postponed until a new version of the issue based module is available.
1.1.6.	Work with partners to develop tools to analyze information concurrently from the national reports of the biodiversity-related and Rio conventions <u>Status:</u> - In collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, as part of UNEP's knowledge management project.
1.1.7.	Participate in activities related to the World Summit on the Information Society <u>Status:</u> - The last summit took place in Tunis in 2005 and no further meeting has been planned so far. - Activity on hold until further notice.

	<b><i>Actions by national clearing-house mechanisms</i></b>
1.1.8.	Identify and implement opportunities to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation that will enhance the capacity to implement priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans <u>Status:</u> - Information not available
<b>1.2.</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism facilitates the transfer of technology and technology cooperation</b>
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</i></b>
1.2.1	Assist Parties and other Governments in the use of new information technologies and traditional technologies to promote transfer of technologies <u>Status:</u> - Technical contacts established with Innovation Relay Centres (IRC), German Cleaner Production Database and UNFCCC. - Consultant to develop an on-line search on the three databases.
1.2.2.	Promote technology transfer through participation in trade fairs, conferences, workshops, and other technology-related events <u>Status:</u> - Could take place during COP-9.
	<b><i>Actions by national clearing-house mechanisms</i></b>
1.2.3.	Identify and implement opportunities to facilitate the transfer of technology that is needed to implement priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.
<b>1.3.</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism facilitates cooperation among the three Rio Conventions and other environmental agreements, organizations and initiatives</b>
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</i></b>
1.3.1	Establish a technical working group among the Rio and other environmental conventions and develop electronic tools to facilitate communication and work. <u>Status:</u> - Informal technical group from various MEA met in May 2006. Coordination handled by UNEP & UNEP-WCMC.
1.3.2.	Publish technical specifications through the CHM Toolkit to assist in making electronic information from the Rio and other environmental conventions interoperable. <u>Status:</u> - Technical specification to be included in the future release of the CHM Toolkit.
<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism is promoting and facilitating the exchange of information among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders</b>
<b>2.1.</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism makes information related to the Convention and Convention processes available via electronic and traditional means</b>
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD and national clearing-house mechanisms</i></b>
2.1.1.	Invest in the development of, and use, new information exchange tools and technologies to make Convention-related information accessible <u>Status:</u> - On-going activities - Enhancement and maintenance of the website - Daily news headlines - Publication of newsletters

2.1.2.	Invest in the use of traditional information dissemination tools to ensure equitable access to Convention-related information <u>Status:</u> - SCBD is considering an enhancement of its faxing system.
	<b>Actions by national clearing-house mechanisms</b>
2.1.3.	National clearing-house mechanisms make available information on activities undertaken to implement the Convention as appropriate <u>Status:</u> - Limited information available from national CHM. - CBD CHM should consider the implementation of an on-line reporting mechanism.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>In collaboration with other relevant initiatives, organizations and partners, the clearing-house mechanism facilitates the access to and repatriation of information on biodiversity</b>
	<b>Actions by the CBD and national clearing-house mechanisms</b>
2.2.1.	In collaboration with other relevant initiatives, organizations and partners, publish information through the clearing-house mechanism on projects digitizing observational data and natural history collections of specimen data <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
2.2.2.	Support the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and other initiatives that promote open access to digitized observational data and specimen data in natural history collections and the development of open distributed networks of data <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
2.2.3.	Promote participation in projects aiming to enhance national capacities to digitize, access and use electronic observational data and specimen data from natural history collections, and the publication of their results <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
2.2.4.	Collaborate with relevant partners, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to facilitate access to relevant data and information, such as observational, environmental, geospatial and scientific literature <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
<b>2.3.</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism assists Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations in making data and information available in support of activities related to the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target</b>
	<b>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</b>
2.3.1.	Encourage Parties and other Governments and relevant initiatives, organizations and partners to make data available that will assist in the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target <u>Status:</u> - Activity to be implemented by UNEP-WCMC for 2010 Indicators, World Database on Protected Areas and Database of marine and coastal biodiversity.
2.3.2.	Establish a metadata registry of data and information held by national clearing-house mechanisms <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
2.3.3.	In collaboration with other relevant initiatives, organizations and partners, make information available through the clearing-house mechanism on data custodianship and issues of intellectual property rights <u>Status:</u> - Pending.



2.3.4.	Enhance mechanisms for Parties, other Governments and stakeholders to contribute case studies and other information on best practices <u>Status:</u> - Various case studies databases available. - Recent addition of case-studies on Biodiversity and Cities
2.3.5.	Link with other information systems containing resources on best practices <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
2.3.6.	In collaboration with other relevant initiatives, organizations and partners, assist in the establishment of a global electronic library catalogue on biodiversity information <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
<b>Actions by national clearing-house mechanisms</b>	
2.3.7.	National clearing-house mechanisms foster technical collaboration by making information available, including on their websites where appropriate, on technical expertise, new information technologies, geographical information systems and data modelling <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.
2.3.8.	National clearing-house mechanisms contribute to the development of and publish information on resources required to assist Parties with achievement of the 2010 target <u>Status:</u> - See 2.3.1.
2.3.9.	In collaboration with other relevant initiatives, organizations, partners and national clearing-house mechanisms, facilitate access to national databases on biodiversity information <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.
<b>2.4.</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism contributes to the future technical development of the Biosafety Clearing-House established under paragraph 1 of Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.</b>
<b>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</b>	
2.4.1.	Assist with national participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House by contributing technical expertise in technical workshops and training sessions <u>Status:</u> - Technical expertise was provided in collaboration with UNEP/GEF.
2.4.2.	Continue to disseminate information through traditional methods to ensure full participation by Parties in activities related to the Cartagena Protocol <u>Status:</u> - Ongoing activity in collaboration with UNEP/GEF.
<b>2.5.</b>	<b>Parties have established effective mechanisms for facilitating the exchange of information, including as appropriate clearing-house mechanism websites which use, when possible and appropriate, common formats, protocols and standards, including metadata standards, as recommended by the clearing-house mechanism</b>
<b>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</b>	
2.5.1.	Continue to update and use the CHM Toolkit to assist Parties in the use of common formats, protocols and standards <u>Status:</u> - Pending. See 3.1.2. - Part of the future CHM toolkit planned for end of 2007.

2.5.2.	Publish metadata standards more widely for use by Parties <u>Status:</u> - Pending. To be included in the toolkit.
2.5.3.	Continue to update the controlled vocabulary for the Convention on Biological Diversity with new and evolving terminology for use by Parties to facilitate the interoperability of information, and use as descriptors in web page metadata records and library collections <u>Status:</u> - Control vocabulary is available but no resources are available to maintain it
2.5.4.	Offer assistance to Parties and other Governments with the use of the controlled vocabulary for the Convention, subject and analytical cataloguing and authority control <u>Status:</u> - Pending. Requires completion of 2.5.3.
<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism is fully operational with participation of all Parties and an expanded network of partners</b>
<b>3.1.</b>	<b>All Parties have established and are further developing clearing-house mechanisms through sustainable funding</b>
	<b>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</b>
3.1.1.	Make available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism information on GEF funding, including a list of GEF-funded projects and enabling activities related to the clearing-house mechanism <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
3.1.2.	Further develop the CHM Toolkit to assist Parties and other Governments to develop and establish clearing-house mechanisms <u>Status:</u> - Pending. CHM toolkit is planned for end 2007.
3.1.3.	Use the results from checklists and surveys on the state of development of national clearing-house mechanisms to better target capacity building activities at the national level <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
3.1.4.	Share innovative approaches of national clearing-house mechanisms across CHM focal points <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
	<b>Actions by national clearing-house mechanisms</b>
3.1.5.	Through their activities, national clearing-house mechanisms make a strong case for sustainable funding, support and investment <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.
3.1.6.	Parties without clearing-house mechanisms use GEF funding to establish them <u>Status:</u> - Tunisia benefited from GEF funding through the enabling activities programme. - Further funding will depend on new funding framework.
3.1.7.	Parties with well-developed clearing-house mechanisms participate in mentoring programmes to assist other Parties with less developed clearing-house mechanisms <u>Status:</u> - Ongoing partnership between Belgium and African countries to be extended until 2012.

<b>3.2.</b>	<b>Relevant partners participate in an expanded clearing-house mechanism network</b>
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</i></b>
3.2.1.	Make available to Parties and other Governments information on the development and use of electronic and traditional communication tools <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
3.2.2.	Assist Parties and other Governments with the use of electronic and traditional communication tools <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD and national clearing-house mechanisms</i></b>
3.2.3.	Establish partnerships with existing networks <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
3.2.4.	Publish information through the clearing-house mechanism on activities of partner networks <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
3.2.5.	Make available, and continuously update, a list of thematic contact points to facilitate networking, communication and collaboration among national and regional clearing-house mechanisms <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.
<b>3.3.</b>	<b>Parties have established and use effective mechanisms for facilitating scientific and technical cooperation, including thematic networks where appropriate in support of the implementation the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target</b>
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</i></b>
3.3.1.	Publish information on clearing-house mechanism partnerships to develop thematic networks (Global Invasive Species Programme, Article 8(j), etc.) <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
3.3.2.	Publish information on existing thematic networks and their data resources <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
3.3.3.	Add a component on issues related to networking in capacity building technical workshops and training sessions organized by the Secretariat <u>Status:</u> - See 1.1.1.
	<b><i>Actions by national clearing-house mechanisms</i></b>
3.3.4.	Identify work areas where active networking between experts would facilitate implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and seek to establish such networks <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.

<b>3.4.</b>	<b>The clearing-house mechanism contributes to the development of the global communication, education and public awareness network</b>
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD clearing-house mechanism</i></b>
3.4.1.	Develop electronic interactive communication tools through the Convention website to promote and facilitate greater communication and interaction with stakeholders and civil society <u>Status:</u> - Proposal for financial support submitted to the Netherlands.
3.4.2.	Develop electronic web-based spaces to assist with activities related to communication, education and public awareness and to promote civil society participation and interaction in activities related to the implementation of the Convention <u>Status:</u> - Proposal for financial support submitted to the Netherlands. - Important outreach effort to the civil society through forums and special newsletters.
3.4.3.	Support the objectives of the communication strategy of the Convention through the development of information dissemination tools and systems <u>Status:</u> - Important dissemination effort in preparation of International Biodiversity Day
3.4.4.	Publish a regular column on activities related to the clearing-house mechanism in the CBD News <u>Status:</u> - Pending.
	<b><i>Actions by the CBD and national clearing-house mechanisms</i></b>
3.4.5.	Develop education modules to assist in the implementation of activities related to the implementation of the Convention <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.
3.4.6.	Develop training modules on the use of new information and web-based technologies for use in training sessions and technical workshops <u>Status:</u> - Toolkit to be developed by IUCN commission on Education and Communication.
3.4.7.	Support activities to create education networks devoted to biodiversity-related education and training <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.
3.4.8.	Increase the use of electronic communication tools and web-based technologies that facilitate the sharing and dissemination of information on the clearing-house mechanism and its activities, taking into account the importance of local languages <u>Status:</u> - Information not available.

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