



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

Bonn, 18 May 2008

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

A. *General information*

1. The meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held on 18 May 2008 in Bonn. The meeting will take place in Room Lenné located on the first floor of the Maritim Hotel Bonn. Registration of participants will commence at 9 a.m. and the meeting is expected to close at 5 p.m. Further details are available in the information note for participants (document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/Info-Part).

B. *Background*

2. In decision VIII/11, the Conference of the Parties adopted the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism and its programme of work for the period 2005-2010, and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on progress made for consideration at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A number of activities have been undertaken accordingly, but full implementation of the strategic plan is constrained by the limited capacity and resources available at national and global levels, including the Secretariat.

3. The implementation of this strategic plan was discussed at the last meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee held on 7 July 2007 in Paris. The report of this meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2007/1/4. In addition, an intersessional consultation of the Informal Advisory Committee took place during the meeting held on 21 February 2008 at the margins of SBSTTA 13 and the report is available as document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/2.

* UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/1.

4. Further to these consultations with the Informal Advisory Committee, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note on scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism: proposals for the implementation of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/23) for consideration by the ninth Conference of the Parties under its agenda item 4.15 on scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism. This document contains proposals for the implementation of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism, with a focus on priority activities or services that can significantly contribute to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.

C. Expected outcome

5. The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss the implementation of the Executive Secretary's proposals contained in a note by the Executive Secretary on scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism: proposals for the implementation of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/23), in the event that these proposals are endorsed by the ninth Conference of the Parties. The meeting will also be an opportunity to share relevant experiences and make recommendations on other major issues related to the implementation of the programme of work of the clearing-house mechanism.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Executive Secretary at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday 18 May 2008. New members and guests will be welcome and will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

7. A provisional agenda has been prepared by the Executive Secretary (document UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/1). This provisional agenda proposes to start with a series of presentations providing relevant background for the meeting. The participants will then engage in in-depth discussions on issues of particular relevance to the clearing-house mechanism with a view to provide guidance to the Secretariat. Finally, any other matters could be discussed before concluding and closing the meeting.

8. The Committee will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary.

2.2. Organization of work

9. The Committee will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work is contained in annex I to the present annotations. A list of relevant documents is provided in annex II.

ITEM 3. PRESENTATIONS

10. The first presentation will be made by the Secretariat to provide background on recent and planned activities. Then, there will be two presentations on the CHM and Regional Networks:

- (a) The IABIN case study by Ms. Gladys Cotter and Ms. Bonnie Carroll;
- (b) The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity case study by Ms. Connie Garcia.

11. The presentations will be followed by brief questions and answers sessions.

ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

12. The implementation of the programme of work of the clearing-house mechanism is a global collaborative process involving the Parties, the Secretariat, and many partner organizations. Under this item, the Committee is expected to provide expert advice and make sound recommendations on the issues for in-depth consideration.

4.1. Communication strategy

13. Any initiative can benefit from a good communication strategy. This statement holds true for the clearing-house mechanism, especially because the term “clearing-house” expresses a concept that is sometimes not well-understood, and cannot always be accurately translated into other languages. The Committee will be invited to make proposals on a communication strategy for the clearing-house mechanism. This communication strategy should be adapted to various target audiences such as the general public, national focal points, decision makers and other partners. Specific items for discussion could include branding, guidelines for the logo, a tagline, key messages, a brochure and any other communication initiatives.

4.2. Knowledge management for the CHM

14. There is a clear link between knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism. The whole purpose of exchanging information is to enhance knowledge for implementing the Convention. At the same time, the concept of knowledge management is very broad and it will be interesting to gather views and experiences from the Committee. This information will be taken into account to define a knowledge management strategy adapted to the clearing-house mechanism. The discussion could be structured by identifying several key areas of knowledge, analyzing them, and then recommending a specific course of actions in each area.

4.3. Central CHM services

15. The central portal of the clearing-house mechanism is in the process of being enhanced to provide on-line services to support the implementation of the Convention. Under this sub-item, the Committee is expected to provide guidance for the establishment of several central online services, as proposed in section V of the note by the Executive Secretary on scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism: proposals for the implementation of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/23) submitted to the ninth Conference of the Parties:

- (a) A knowledge base to facilitate access to relevant information, such as guidelines, strategies, reports, etc;
- (b) Collaboration tools to allow Parties to collaborate, share ideas and experiences on how to implement the Convention;
- (c) A planning and reporting facility to help Parties plan and report on implementation activities.

16. Additional services can also be discussed under this item. These services could be of a general nature (e.g. global search engine), or very specialized (e.g. related to a need of a specific programme area, such as technology transfer). In all case, the relevance and added value of the service should be considered before recommending its implementation.

4.4. National and regional CHM

17. A fully operational clearing-house mechanism with participation of all Parties and an expanded network of partners is the third goal of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism. At the global level, a web portal has gradually been built to promote the global clearing-house mechanism network under a single domain name chm-cbd.net. Several regional and subregional cooperation initiatives and partnerships are ongoing. Guidance and support is being provided and tools are available to help countries build their national clearing-house mechanisms. Under this sub-item, the Committee will be invited to comment on these initiatives, and make recommendations for further actions. It is expected that the issue of sustainability will be addressed under this item.

4.5. Information exchange with partners

18. The establishment of information exchange mechanisms with key partners is in line with objective 2.5 of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism. Such mechanisms have the potential to significantly increase the information made available through the clearing-house mechanism in an automated way. A concrete example is the enhancement of the CBD technology transfer database by making it interoperable with external technology transfer databases. Under this item, the Committee is expected to make recommendations on further information exchange initiatives.

4.6. Additional issues

19. Under this sub-item, the Committee can raise and discuss any technical issues that were not covered under the previous sub-items.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

20. Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider any other matters relevant to the clearing-house mechanism.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21. The Committee will be invited to formulate general conclusions and recommendations based on the outcomes of the discussions on the various issues considered during the meeting.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

22. The meeting is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Sunday 18 May 2008.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Sunday, 18 May 2008

9 a.m. - 9.30 a.m.

Welcome and registration

9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.2. Organization of the work.
3. Presentations.

10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.

Coffee break

10.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

3. Presentations (*continued*);
4. Issues for in-depth consideration:
 - 4.1. Communication strategy;
 - 4.2. Knowledge management for the CHM;
 - 4.3. Central CHM services.

12.30 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Lunch break

2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

4. Issues for in-depth consideration (*continued*):
 - 4.4. National and regional CHM;
 - 4.5. Information exchange with partners;
 - 4.6. Additional issues.

3.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.

Coffee break

3.45 p.m. - 5 p.m.

5. Other matters;
6. Conclusions and recommendations;

5 p.m.

7. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

DOCUMENTATION

Working documents

- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/1
Provisional agenda
- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/1/Add.1
Annotated provisional agenda
- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/2
Report of the intersessional consultation held at the margins of the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

Other documents

- UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2008/1/Info-Part
Information note for participants.
