



**CONVENTION ON
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DIVERSITY**

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
REGIONAL MEETING ON THE CLEARING-
HOUSE MECHANISM
Brasilia, 9-11 March 2005

**REPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING ON
THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM**

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. In decision VII/23, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to 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.
2. The Conference of the Parties, in decision VI/18, also urged the Executive Secretary to convene additional capacity-building workshops at the national, subregional and regional levels referred to in decision V/14 of the Conference of the Parties for clearing-house activities and training in support of national capacities to implement the Convention.
3. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary organized the regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to discuss the development and implementation of initiatives by the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation at the national and regional levels with regard to the Convention's programme areas and cross-cutting issues, particularly the 2010 target, the transfer of technology and Article 8(j): traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.
4. The organization of the meeting also responded to the recommendation of the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism, made at its meetings of 11 March 2001, 11 November 2001, 10 April 2002, 9 March 2003 and 6 February 2005, that the Executive Secretary should focus on the use of the clearing-house mechanism to promote technical and scientific cooperation within the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including invasive alien species, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), coastal and marine biodiversity and the ecosystem approach.
5. Specific objectives for the meeting included:

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- (a) Identification of activities by the clearing-house mechanism to assist Parties and other Governments to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level;
- (b) Development of proposals on the possible role of the clearing-house mechanism as a central mechanism for exchange of information on technologies and for facilitating technology transfer;
- (c) Identification of activities to assist in the development of communication networks and tools for use by indigenous and local communities;
- (d) Development of activities in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including invasive alien species, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), coastal and marine biodiversity and the ecosystem approach, among others;
- (e) Discussion of issues related to the enhancement of national clearing-house mechanisms and opportunities for more effective technical and scientific cooperation among clearing-house mechanisms in the region.

B. Attendance

6. Each Party to the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean was invited to nominate one participant, with experience with the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention. In response to that invitation, participants from the following countries were nominated by their respective focal points and attended the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay..
7. Representatives of the following bilateral donor and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting as observers and/or resource persons:
 - (a) International organizations: United Nations Development Programme;
 - (b) *Intergovernmental organizations active in information-exchange and scientific cooperation issues*: Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF);
 - (c) *Non-governmental organizations*: Birdlife International, Centro de Referencia de Informação Ambiental .
8. The full list of participants is contained in annex II to the present report.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

9. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 9 March 2005. It was addressed by Mr. Everton Viera Vargas, Director General of the Department for the Environment and Special Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Relations of Brazil. He spoke of the support from the Ministry of Foreign Relations for the Convention and its clearing-house mechanism. He also spoke on the Government of Brazil's views on initiatives related to biodiversity, particularly within the context of national sovereignty. He also spoke of issues such as access and benefit sharing and the role of the clearing-house mechanism. The role of the clearing-house mechanism in regard to communication, education and public awareness was also discussed. Other issues such as information exchange to assist Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region to fulfil objectives under the Convention were mentioned. He concluded by welcoming the participants and wishing them a successful meeting.
10. Mr Joao Paulo Capobianco, Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests, Ministry of the Environment, Brazil, also welcomed participants to the meeting, and wished participants a successful meeting.

11. Mr. Marcos Silva, on behalf of Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary, welcomed the participants to the meeting. He also thanked the Government of Belgium for the generous financial funding in support of the meeting. After an introduction to the new phase of the clearing-house mechanism, Mr. Silva presented a brief summary on new initiatives to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation with regard to the programme areas and cross-cutting areas of the Convention, including invasive alien species, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), the ecosystem approach, coastal and marine biodiversity and Article 8(j), traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. He then invited countries to use the meeting to identify their priority needs regarding capacities to participate in these new initiatives under the clearing-house mechanism, particularly with regard to the transfer of technology, the 2010 target, and the role of national clearing-house mechanisms. Mr. Silva concluded his remarks by expressing his gratitude to the Government of Brazil for hosting the meeting.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

12. At the 1st session of the meeting, on 9 March 2005, Mr. Braulio Dias, from Brazil, was elected to serve as Chair and Linus Spenser Thomas, from Grenada, to serve as Rapporteur.

2.2. Adoption of agenda

13. The Regional Meeting adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda circulated in advance of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/CHM/LAC.Reg/2/1/Add.1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of officers;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. The role of the clearing-house mechanism in promoting and facilitating activities to assist Parties and other Governments to achieve the 2010 target.
4. The role of the clearing-house mechanism and the transfer of technology.
5. The development of activities by the clearing-house mechanism in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the convention.
6. Conclusions and recommendations.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.

2.3. Organization of work

14. At its 1st session, on 9 March 2005, the Regional Meeting approved the proposed programme of work as contained in annex II to the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CHM/LAC.Reg/2/1/Add.1)

15. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Chair invited participants to introduce themselves.

Presentations

16. On completion of the round table of introductions, the Chair invited Ms. Beatriz Torres of the Global Environment Facility (GBIF) to address the participants. In her presentation she highlighted the collaborative work that GBIF has in support of the Convention particularly in regards to the GTI, GSPC, the 2010 indicators and the CHM. In fulfillment of its mission and in support to decision VII/23, GBIF launched its biodiversity data portal prototype in February 2004 with 2 million records, a year later + 65 million biodiversity records (specimens and observational data) are freely and openly served via www.gbif.net.

17. Ms. Torres also addressed GBIF's activities regarding capacity building and training workshops in biodiversity informatics, and the support to the scientific community via its Seed Money Grants. In concluding she highlighted the work of GBIF in developing prototypes and its work with tools, standards and protocols that actively promote interoperability and the open and free sharing of biodiversity data.

18. In the ensuing discussion, comments were made by the participants from Brazil, Chile, Grenada and Mexico.

19. The Chair then invited Ms Roxana Solis, from Peru, to speak on developments of the Peruvian clearing-house mechanism.

20. Ms Solis discussed the role of the Peruvian clearing-house mechanism regarding the implementation of the Convention in Peru, particularly within the context of article 18.3 and 17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She also discussed the strategy of the Peruvian clearing-house mechanism, including its work with work to: coordinate other initiatives such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Inter-American biodiversity Information Network, AndinoNet, etc.; offer information on the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention such as the GTI among other activities. She mentioned that the Peruvian National Focal Point has developed through a strategic approach the implementation of the Peruvian Network of Ex-Situ Conservation Centres, stressing the desire to strengthen this network in support to initiatives such as the Global Taxonomic Initiative. She concluded by speaking briefly on the development of a thematic clearing-house mechanism between Peru and Ecuador with the support of BirdLife International.

21. On conclusion of the above presentation, the Chair invited comments from the floor.

22. Comments were made by participants from Bolivia and Mexico.

23. Following the above presentation, the Chair invited Mr. Reinaldo Aviles, from Chile, to speak on issues related to the Chilean clearing-house mechanism and its work related to the Chilean national biodiversity action plan. Mr. Aviles spoke on the development of databases developed by the Chilean clearing-house mechanism containing information on the work of government ministries related to biodiversity and the environment. He concluded by describing the information resources available through the Chilean clearing-house mechanism.

24. Mr. Vanderlei Canhos, of the Centro de Referencia de Informação Ambiental was then invited by the Chair to speak on the programme BIOTA--Fundacao de Apoio de Pequeresquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FEPESP).

25. Mr. Canhos described the programme, particularly its efforts to develop an information system to integrate observational data. This new information system allows for spatial analyses of data of the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Finally, he described the project Species Link which allows for the searching of museum species data through remote and distributed searching.

26. Comments on the above presentation were made by the Brazil, Peru and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

27. The Chair then invited Ms Vivian Nolan to speak on the work of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network.

28. Ms Nolan spoke briefly on the programme of work of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, its efforts to promote partnerships, and its work to make biodiversity-related data publicly available. She concluded by stating Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network's willingness to collaborate with the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and national clearing-house mechanisms on initiatives and programmes.

29. Comments on the above were made by Bolivia, Costa Rica and Mexico.

**ITEM 3. THE ROLE OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM IN
PROMOTING AND FACILITATING ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST PARTIES
AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE 2010 TARGET**

30. Agenda item 3 was considered at the 2nd session of the meeting, on 9 March 2005. The Chair proposed that discussion under this agenda item should cover the following elements:

(a) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in making data available in support of the 2010 target;

(b) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in promoting the use of common formats, protocols and standards to facilitate the exchange of data;

(c) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in making accessible information on geo-referenced data and models based on that data.

31. The Chair invited comments from participants in regard to the above items.

32. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez of Mexico spoke on the Mexican clearing-house mechanism and on the need for sustainable support by governments to the work of a national clearing-house mechanism. He also spoke on the different roles of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and national clearing-house mechanisms. The issue of the information needed in relation to indicators was also raised by Mr. Benitez.

33. Mr. Edimar Moretti of Brazil, spoke on available technologies available for integrating information, including geo-referenced data, that may be of interest to indicators and the 2010 target.

34. Mr. Linus Spencer of Grenada spoke of the need for capacity-building for small islands states to be able to participate effectively in work related to indicators and the 2010 target.

35. Comments were also made by Chile, Costa Rica, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network.

36. There was agreement that Parties in the region that have an advanced technical infrastructure could assist other Parties with information issues related to the 2010 target and indicators. There was also agreement that the clearing-house mechanism should create a list of available information resources in the region pertaining to indicators, and make the list searchable by keyword, a controlled vocabulary and thematic areas. Participants stressed the need for sufficient resources to sustain work in relation to information systems in support of the 2010 target and indicators. The need for technical workshops was also discussed, with the meeting voicing unanimous support for the sharing of expertise available in the

region. There was agreement that support was needed to assist with compilation of information, travel of experts to training workshops, support implementation and development of new information tools.

ITEM 4. ROLE OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

37. Agenda item 4 was considered at the 2nd session of the meeting, on 9 March 2005. The Chair proposed that discussion under this agenda item should cover the following elements:

(a) Proposals on the role of the clearing-house mechanism as a central mechanism for exchange of information on technologies and for facilitating technology transfer and cooperation;

(b) Development of guidance for implementation by national clearing-house mechanisms for common or similar frameworks for identifying the availability of relevant technologies to enhance international cooperation and to facilitate the interoperability with relevant existing systems of national and international information exchange, including technology and patent databases.

38. The Chair invited participants to the meeting to discuss issues related to the above.

39. Comments on the above presentation were made by Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

40. There was agreement that the clearing-house mechanism should become more involved in issues related to technology transfer. There was also agreement that national clearing-house mechanisms should survey available national technologies, and disseminate information about them. Participants stressed that the clearing-house mechanism should reach out to existing regional frameworks to facilitate the exchange of information pertaining to technology transfer.

41. At the 3rd session of the meeting on 10 March 2005, the Chair invited Mr. Paulo Henrique de Assis Santana, Head, Information Technologies of the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil to speak on the National Information System for the Environment (Sistema Nacional de Informação sobre o Meio Ambiente). He stressed the components of the system including its adherence to common and open formats, protocols and standards. He also discussed issues pertaining to interoperability, including the need for all systems to become interoperable under a decentralized environment. Other services, such as web services, and the architecture of the system were described. Finally, he concluded by discussing the possible use of web services at the regional and sub-regional levels, particularly in support of environmental information issues discussed under the aegis of MERCOSUL.

42. On completion of the presentation, the Chair invited comments from the participants.

43. Participants from Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay and the Centro de Referencia de Informação Ambiental, discussed the above presentation, and stressed the issue of regional information integration and the need to adhere to common and open formats, protocols and standards.

44. On completion of the above discussions, the Chair requested the participant from Jamaica, Mr. Dayne Buddo, to speak on the Jamaican clearing-house mechanism.

45. Mr. Buddo spoke on the role of the Jamaican clearing-house mechanism, its information resources, and education, especially projects undertaken at the high school level, and public awareness tools. He also spoke on new projects including the use of geographic information systems, the development of a photo gallery and the creation of standardized pocket field guides.

46. The Chair invited participants to comment on the above presentation. Comments were made by Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

ITEM 5. THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVITIES BY THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAMME AREAS AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES OF THE CONVENTION

47. As an introduction to item 5 of the agenda, the Chair invited Mr. Jeremy Flanagan, from the BirdLife International project DarwinNet, to give a presentation on the thematic clearing-house mechanism on the dry forests of Ecuador and Peru.

48. Mr. Flanagan described the dry forest of Ecuador and Peru, its biodiversity resources, and threats to its conservation. He discussed efforts to protect the areas, including designation of protected areas, ecotourism programmes and initiatives related to communication, education and public awareness. The development of the thematic clearing-house mechanism on dry forests was also discussed. Partners involved in the development of the thematic clearing-house mechanism such as Birdlife International, the Darwin Initiative, and the Ministries of the Environment of Ecuador and Peru were discussed, and their roles in the development of the project explained. He concluded by describing the objectives of the thematic clearing-house mechanism and efforts to involve relevant stakeholders.

49. Following the conclusion of the above presentation, the Chair invited participants to discuss the implementation of the thematic clearing-house, especially within the context of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. Comments were made by Brazil and Mexico.

50. Agenda item 5 was considered at the 4th session of the meeting, on 10 March 2005. The Chair proposed that discussion under this agenda item should cover the following elements:

(a) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in assisting in the development of communication networks and tools for use by indigenous and local communities;

(b) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in enhancing national capacity with regard to the Global Taxonomy Initiative and taxonomic authorities, including metadata and controlled vocabularies;

(c) The clearing-house mechanism and issues related to implementation of the ecosystem approach;

(d) The role of the clearing-house mechanism in assisting with the development of the global invasive species information network;

(e) The clearing-house mechanism, its role in facilitating cooperation with regard to activities related to marine and coastal biodiversity.

51. After his introduction to item 5 of the agenda, the Chair opened the floor for discussion and comments.

52. Comments on the above were made by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Costa Rica, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network.

53. Participants agreed that the clearing-house mechanism should be used whenever possible to assist in the implementation of the programme of work pertaining to island biodiversity. Participants voiced strong support for projects such as that of the thematic clearing-house mechanism on the dry forests of Ecuador and Peru. There was also agreement that the clearing-house mechanism should be used to foster discussion and sharing and exchange of information on issues on access and benefit sharing by assisting

in the establishment of a network dedicated to issues related to this topic, development of communication mechanisms and other electronic tools. Participants stated that the network should also offer ABS national focal points a communication mechanism to share information and experience. There was also agreement that national clearing-house mechanisms should make available more information on invasive alien species. Finally, participants emphasized the need to encourage close collaboration with existing initiatives such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Integrated Taxonomic Information System, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network and the Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum.

54. On conclusion of the ensuing discussion, and in response to requests from the floor, the Chair invited participants to discuss the development of a possible checklist for use by national clearing-house mechanisms to assist in their further development and evaluation. The checklist is available in annex II to the report.

55. At the 5th session of the meeting, the Chair invited participants to discuss the draft checklist.

56. Comments on the above were made by Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

57. Agenda item 6 was considered at the 6th session of the meeting, on 11 March 2005. The item was introduced by the Chair, who invited the Rapporteur to present the recommendations. Following discussion, the Meeting adopted the recommendations, which are attached to the present report as annex I.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

58. The present report was adopted at the 6th session of the meeting, on 11 March 2005, on the basis of the draft report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/CHM/LAC.Reg/2/2), and taking into account amendments made by participants, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be completed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

59. The Chair declared the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Meeting on the Clearing-House Mechanism closed at 2 p.m. on Friday, 11 March 2005.

Annex I

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING
ON THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM**

Recommendation	Actor	Timeline
1. The CHM should assist in making information on different datasets, other than museum specimen and observational data and other information available to Parties/countries to facilitate work related to indicators and the 2010 target	CBD CHM	COP-8
2. Parties should give sufficient support, financial and human, to ensure the sustainability of national CHMs	Parties	Ongoing
3. Parties and the relevant organizations should make technical experts available in support of capacity building initiatives, particularly for the organization of technical workshops on new information and web-based technologies	CHM National Focal Points	COP-8
4. The CBD CHM should develop a database of information resources that could be used in support of work related to the 2010 indicators.	CBD CHM	3 months
5. Develop regional technical expert groups to discuss issues of common interest and need and to implement technical projects	CHM National Focal Points	COP-8
6. Regional CHMs should better articulate the possible uses of its data and information resources. This should be done within the context of the communication, education and public awareness programme of the CBD	CHM National Focal Points and CBD CHM and relevant organizations	Ongoing
7. Facilitate access to lists of technologies, for instance on technologies to digitize museum specimen records, that could be used by Parties and national CHMs.	CBD CHM and relevant organizations	COP-8
8. Parties should use the checklist of criteria to assist in the evaluation of national CHMs found in annex II to assist CHM in their development and work and that the results of the checklist be presented as an information document at the eight meeting of the COP (please see annex II of this report)	CHM National Focal Points and CBD CHM	3 months
9. Parties should update the Roster or Experts with regard to the Clearing-House mechanism	CBD National Focal Points	Ongoing
10. Parties of the region should follow closely, at the international level, the development of new protocols and standards	CHM National Focal Points and CBD CHM	Ongoing
11. Parties should target support to small islands developing States to further develop national CHMs; organize sub-regional initiatives to build capacity	CBD and national CHMs	Ongoing
12. The CBD CHM should create a directory of information resources and databases in the region regarding activities related to the 2010 indicators	CBD CHM	COP-8
13. The Information System of the Environment for MercoSul, among others should publish formats, protocols and standards used in making its information resources interoperable and make them available through national CHMs and the CBD CHM	CHM National Focal Points in the MERCOSUL region	COP-8

14. Parties should adhere to common and open formats, protocols and standards whenever possible and appropriate, including the use of XML	CHM National Focal Points and CBD CHM	Ongoing
15. Develop regional portal toolkits with a help desk to assist Parties in the region to develop websites and assist with other technical issues related to information exchange, interoperability of data and cartographic data	CBD CHM and national CHMs,	1 year
16. Parties should use existing regional and international cooperation agreements, such as MERCOSUL, to promote greater integration and sharing of information and data	CHM National Focal Points	Ongoing
17. The CHM should facilitate access to best case-studies and results of projects	CBD CHM	Ongoing
18. National CHMs should survey demands on technology transfer and make it available through the CHM	CHM National Focal Points	1 year
19. Develop a metadata registry of available relevant technologies	CBD CHM	COP-8
20. National CHMs should promote activities related to communications, education and public awareness, particularly at the primary and high school levels. It should also increase awareness of the CHM by using marketing strategies	CBD and National CHMs	Ongoing
21. The CBD Secretariat should develop a video on activities of the CHM to increase awareness of its activities and relevance to the implementation of the Convention	CBD Secretariat	1 year
22. The CBD Secretariat should develop a listserv and a restricted website for GRULAC CHM National Focal Points	CHM National Focal Point	1 month
23. Parties should use the information resources of international thematic focal points such as Birdlife International, among others	CHM National Focal Points	Ongoing
24. The CHM should support work related to access and benefit sharing within the region, by assisting with the development of a network on this topic, including the establishment of an Internet portal to disseminate and share information. The CHM should also develop a communication mechanism for use by ABS National Focal Points	CBD CHM	COP-8
25. National CHMs should more effectively report on completed and ongoing activities related to programme areas and cross-cutting issues	CHM National Focal Points	Ongoing
26. Parties should establish closer cooperation should be established among different existing initiatives, such as GBIF, ITIS, IABIN, among others	CBD and National CHMs and relevant organizations	Ongoing
27. Parties should designate a CHM NFP and develop a CHM website if they have not already done so (use decision)	CBD National Focal Points	Ongoing
28. National CHMs should make use of the metadata registry tool developed by the Bulgarian CHM	CHM National Focal Points	Ongoing
29. National CHMs should make available more information on marineinvasive alien species, particularly information on introduction via ballast water and treatment	CHM and CBD National Focal Points	Ongoing

Annex II

**RECOMMENDED CHECKLIST OF CRITERIA TO ASSIST IN THE EVALUATION OF
NATIONAL CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISMS**

Creation and Structure of a CHM

1. Has your country established a clearing-house mechanism? Yes No
2. Has your country established a CHM National Focal Point? Yes No
3. Is the CHM fully operational? Yes No
4. Has your country established a CHM website? Yes No
5. Are there other components to your CHM other than a CHM website? Yes No
6. Are there sufficient human resources? Yes No
7. Is there sufficient technical support? Yes No
8. Does your CHM receive sustainable funding? Yes No
9. Does your CHM have a strategy for implementation? Yes No

Technical and scientific cooperation

1. Does your country's CHM have collaborative initiatives with the research and academic sector?
Yes No
2. Does your country use the CHM to promote and facilitate biodiversity related projects? Yes
No
3. Does your country use the CHM to facilitate and promote national, regional and international
cooperation? Yes No
4. Does your country's CHM have collaborative projects with other similar mechanisms from other
countries? Yes No
5. Does your CHM have collaborative initiatives with other national or regional CHMs? Yes No
6. Does your CHM receive sustainable funding from your country? Yes No
7. Does your CHM organize capacity-building activities, including activities related to the raising of
institutional capacities? Yes No
8. Has your CHM developed policies with regard to its activities, information content on its website,
and use of networks? Yes No
9. Has your CHM contributed to institutional capacity building? Yes No

Information exchange

1. Does your CHM use software to compile statistics on use and navigation of the CHM website?
Yes No
2. Does your CHM use open and common formats, protocols and standards to assist with the interoperability of information? Yes No
3. Has your CHM published its formats, protocols and standards? Yes No
4. Has your CHM established agreements with other CHMs to make data interoperable? Yes No
5. Does your CHM website use metadata? Yes No Has it registered with the metadata management tool developed by the Bulgarian CHM? Yes No
6. Does your CHM website use the CBD or another controlled vocabulary for use as metadata descriptors? Yes No
7. Is your country satisfied with the quantity and quality of information provided through the CHM?
Yes No

Does your CHM contribute information to the CBD CHM? Yes No

8. Do relevant stakeholders use the CHM to communicate and develop collaborative projects?
Yes No
9. Does your CHM disseminate geo-referenced data and cartographic data? Yes No
10. Has your CHM expanded on its user base to include all relevant stakeholders? Yes No
11. Does your CHM disseminate information using non-electronic tools? Yes No

Network development

1. Has your CHM national focal point established communication mechanisms for your government or stakeholders? Yes No
2. Has your CHM participated in the development of networks (physical, logical and/or human)?
Yes No
3. Does your CHM participate actively in any existing networks? Yes No
4. Has your CHM developed a communications strategy? Yes No
5. Has your CHM developed any activities in support of communication, education and public awareness? Yes No
6. Has your CHM participated in activities to develop a regional CHM? Yes No
7. Has your CHM contributed expertise or other resources to capacity building activities or network development? Yes No

8. Has your CHM participated actively in CHM related meetings and workshops? Yes No
9. Would your CHM be able to contribute expertise of other resources to network development or capacity building activities? Yes No

Does your CHM have activities related to the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention?

Programme Areas

- Agricultural Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Dry and Sub-Humid Lands Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Forest Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Inland Waters Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Island Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Marine and Coastal Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Mountain Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]

Cross-Cutting Issues

- Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Biological Diversity and Tourism *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Climate Change and Biological Diversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Economics, Trade and Incentive Measures *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Ecosystem Approach *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Global Taxonomy Initiative *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Impact Assessment *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Indicators *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Liability and Redress - Article 14(2) *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Protected Areas *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Public Education and Awareness *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Sustainable Use of Biodiversity *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Technology Transfer and Cooperation *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices *Many Some Few* [Comments:]
2010 Biodiversity Target *Many Some Few* [Comments:]

Annex III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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