

# BULGARIAN CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM (CHM)

<http://chm.moew.government.bg>

The **Bulgarian CHM** is a part of the global information exchange network, established by the **Biodiversity Convention**. Its purpose is to offer directly or make links to the information on biodiversity you need.

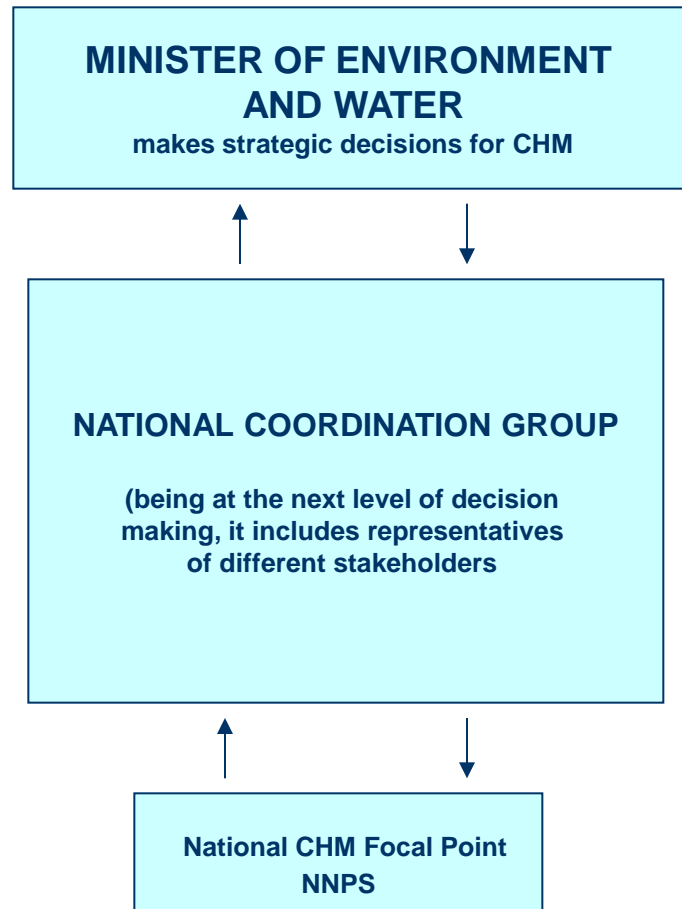
The CHM contributes for the implementation of the Biodiversity Convention in Bulgaria. It is developed as a decentralized information network, which is a user oriented. CHM helps the process of decision-making, improves coordination, helps avoid duplication of efforts and funds, enhances the transfer of technologies and allows for the more effective achievement of the objectives formulated

# WHEN WAS THE BULGARIAN CHM ESTABLISHED?

- Bulgarian CHM was established in the period 2001-2003 as a result of a joint project between MOEW and UN Development Programme (UNDP), titled “Needs Assessment and Development of a Clearing-House Mechanism for the Biological Diversity in Bulgaria” and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Article 18 of the Convention requires the establishment of a clearing-house mechanism (CHM) with the aim to facilitate the scientific and technical cooperation on issues connected with the biodiversity.
- The Bulgarian CHM structure comprises the Minister of Environment and Water (at the highest level, responsible for strategic decisions); the National Coordination Group (being at the next level of decision making, it includes representatives of different stakeholders); the National CHM Focal Point and CHM Unit (responsible for every-day coordination and operation of the National Mechanism).

# MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

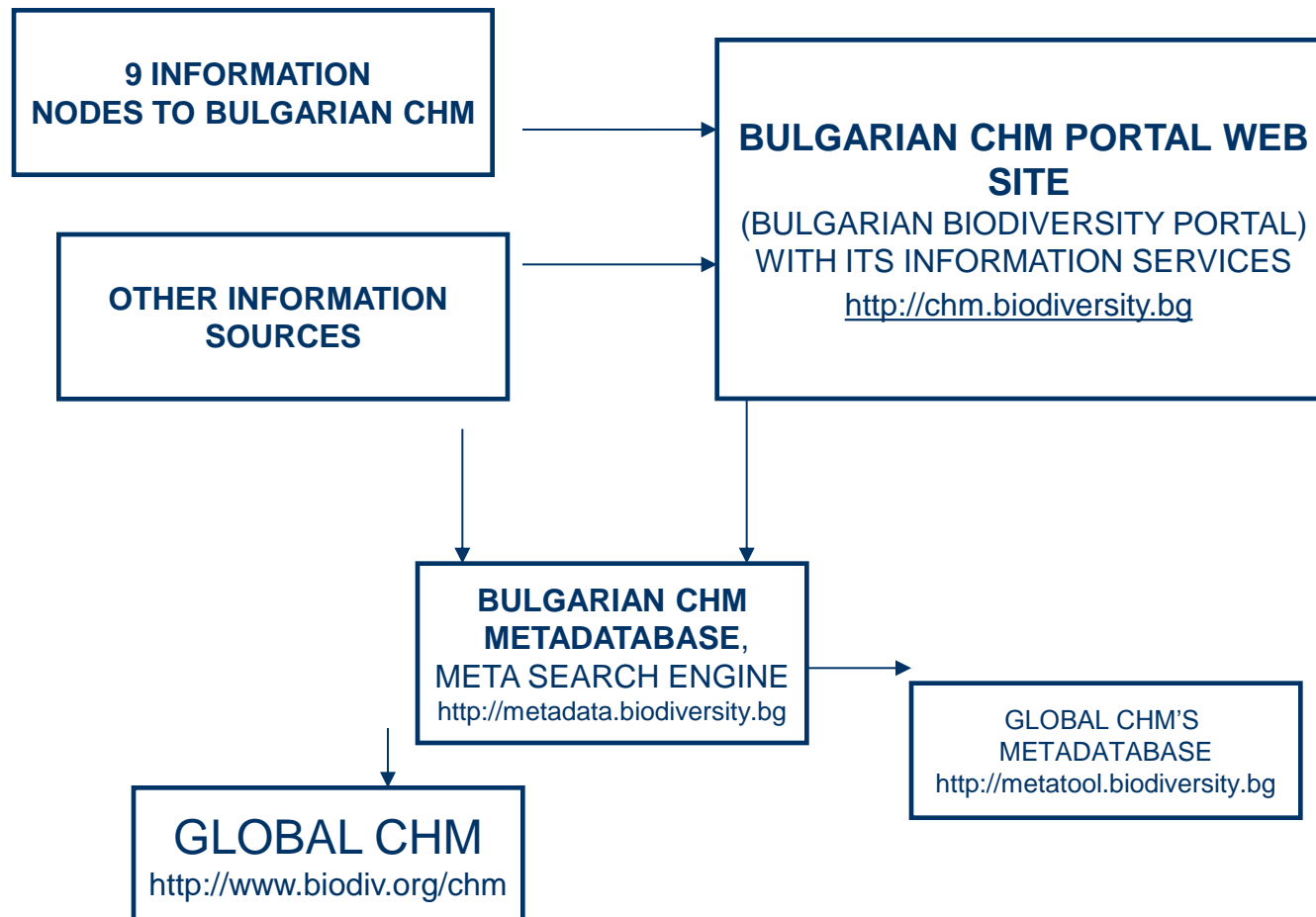
The management and organization of the Bulgarian CHM are implemented through the established organizational structure.



# WHICH ARE THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BULGARIAN CHM?

- **Portal web site on biological diversity in Bulgaria (CHM Portal Web Site);**
- **Applications of the Bulgarian CHM:**
- **Database of Specialists, Institutions/Organizations; Projects/ Programmes in the area of biodiversity;**
- **Virtual library of books and publications related to biodiversity;**
- **Protected area and GIS application;**
- **Dictionary of terms and abbreviations related to biological diversity;**
- **News channel – as a result of a joint project with Bluelink Information Network;**
- **Metatool and Metadata.**

# INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE



# WHICH ARE THE INFORMATION NODES OF BULGARIAN CHM?

The Bulgarian CHM operates as a network of nine Information Nodes, based at institutions and organizations, which provide the information. These are:

- **National Nature Protection Service – Ministry of Environment and Water:** <http://chm.moew.government.bg/nnps/>
- **Agroecology Department- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:** <http://chm.moew.government.bg/indexDetails.cfm?vID=69&vPage=1>
- **National Forestry Board- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:** <http://new.nug.bg/>
- **Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – BulBioNet Project:** <http://www.bulbionet.org/>
- **University of Sofia, Biological Department:** <http://biodiv.biofac.uni-sofia.bg/biodiv/index.php>
- **Non-governmental organizations:** <http://www.bluelink.net/chm/>
- **Parks in Bulgaria:** <http://www.bg-parks.net/>
- **Education on Nature Conservation:** <http://www.reednetbg.com/>
- **Executive Environment Agency:** <http://chm.moew.government.bg/iaos/index.cfm>

# TECHNOLOGY AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT

- **Content management system**
- The use of a **content management system** is a key idea of the Bulgarian CHM. This system allows for adding, editing or erasing of information (management of the contents) placed in the portal CHM web-site or the accompanying sites. This is performed through Internet by a person with no specific technical background, respectively the one responsible for the site. This system allows for easy updating of the information, which is an important element of the Concept of the clearing-house mechanism.

# WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE BULGARIAN CHM OFFER?

The information, provided by the Bulgarian CHM is accessible through the portal web site on biological diversity (also referred to as CHM Portal). This information is organized in main topics. This topics are organized as a main menu of Bulgarian Biodiversity Portal Web Site, providing in this way a structured approach to accessing all services of Bulgarian CHM. The topics are the following:

- **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**
- **ABOUT BIODIVERSITY**
- **ABOUT CHM**
- **LEGISLATION**
- **NATIONAL STRATEGIES**
- **BIODIVERSITY IN BULGARIA**
- **PROGRAMS/PROJECTS- INSTITUTIONS/ORGANIZATIONS- SPECIALISTS**
- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**
- **BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY**
- **EDUCATION**
- **EVENTS**
- **LIBRARIES**
- **CHM INITIATIVES AND SERVICES**
- **METASEARCH**
- **INTRANET**