



# Scientific and Technical Cooperation and the Clearing-house Mechanism

## Promoting and Facilitating Scientific and Technical Cooperation

Established under article 18.3 of the Convention, the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) is the information exchange platform of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Geared towards promoting scientific and technical cooperation, it has evolved into a global network of websites consisting of National Clearing-House Mechanisms, partner organizations and the CBD website.

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) adopted the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism and its programme of work for the period 2005-2010. As defined in this strategic plan, the mission of the CHM is to contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention through the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation. The CHM is interested only in information that is already in the public domain or in improving the accessibility of such information.

### Why it is important

- Promotes and facilitates scientific and technical cooperation
- Promotes and facilitates the exchange of information
- Builds a global network of Parties and partners.

### What the CBD is doing:

The CHM designs and implements information services to support implementation of the Convention.

Major activities include:

- Maintaining the CBD website ([www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)) and its related web portals
- Providing modern web-based on-line services (e.g. search engines, on-line databases, web-based collaboration tools, information exchange mechanisms, etc.)
- Providing guidance and support to Parties in the establishment and development of their National Clearing-House Mechanisms, including through capacity-building initiatives
- Liaising with Parties and partners to promote scientific and technical cooperation, the exchange of biodiversity information, and networking
- Producing off-line information products (e.g. CD-ROM) for Parties with limited Internet connectivity
- Providing modern information and communication technology services for the operations of the CBD Secretariat.



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Despite significant achievements, full implementation of the strategic plan remains constrained by the limited capacity and resources available at national and global levels. The key challenge is to determine how to accelerate this implementation in an effective, mainstreamed and sustainable way. In this context, COP 9 will review proposals for enhancing the implementation of the programme of work on the CHM, including ways to:

- Strengthen the capacity of both the Parties and the Secretariat to carry out the activities of the programme of work of the CHM
- Focus first on priority activities or services that have the highest impact or added value on the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target
- Position the CHM as the provider of online services that assist Parties in the implementation process.

**For more information:**

About the CHM: [www.cbd.int/chm](http://www.cbd.int/chm)

COP 9 Document on the CHM (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/23): [www.cbd.int/cop9/doc](http://www.cbd.int/cop9/doc)

COP Decisions: [www.cbd.int/chm/decisions](http://www.cbd.int/chm/decisions)

CHM Network: [www.cbd.int/chm/network](http://www.cbd.int/chm/network)



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Convention on Biological Diversity

