

Ref.: SCBD/I&O/CHM/MS/46695

19 January 2005

Dear Madam, Sir,

Subject: Metadata management tool developed by the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of Bulgaria

I am writing in connection with the *Independent review of the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity* (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/12) which recommended the development of a global CHM search engine on the CHM global network to work with relevant and available metadata of national CHM nodes.

In support of the above, I am pleased to inform you that the CHM of Bulgaria, with the generous support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, has developed a global metadata management tool to assist national CHMs in making their information interoperable. Use of this new resource will facilitate greatly the searching, locating and retrieving of information held by national CHM national focal points.

The CBD metadata management tool is available on the CHM of Bulgaria at: <http://metatool.biodiversity.bg/index.cfm>. We encourage Parties and Governments to review this new resource and look forward to any comments that you may have on its use.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: CHM National Focal Points
CHM Informal Advisory Committee members
International thematic focal points