

Ref: SCBD/SEL/ML/GD/52465

19 December 2005

NOTIFICATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

Technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation
Subject: Peer review of the Synthesis Report of Information on National, Regional and International Information Systems

The purpose of this notification is to request your assistance in implementing activities in the programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting in decision VII/29.

Element two of the programme of work provides for the development or strengthening of national, regional and international systems for the gathering and dissemination of relevant information on technology transfer and cooperation and technical and scientific cooperation, including the establishment of effective networks of electronic databases of relevant technology.

Two activities under this programme element foresaw the compilation and synthesis of information on existing information systems for technology transfer and cooperation:

- (a) Under activity 2.2.1, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake a compilation and synthesis of information on national and regional information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including the identification of best-practices and of needs for further improvements, in particular in regard to the accessibility of such systems for indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders as well as information on capacity and human resources available and needed;
- (b) Under activity 2.4.2, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake a compilation and synthesis of information on regional and international information systems, including best-practices and opportunities for further development, and make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, as appropriate.

Pursuant to these requests, the Secretariat has prepared the attached document, which is being circulated for peer review.

To: CBD National Focal Points;
CHM Focal Points;
Relevant organizations
Attachment: Document "Synthesis Report of Information on National, Regional and International Information Systems"



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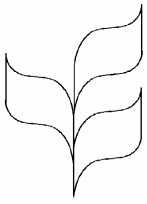
I have the pleasure to invite you to take part in the peer review of the attached document, and in particular of the annexed table, with a view to ensuring comprehensiveness and accuracy of the information provided.

I would be grateful to receive your comments as soon as possible but not later than **31 January 2006** to allow for the finalization of the document in light of the comments received and their timely distribution prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8), to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, on 20 – 31 March 2006.

I wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and for your continued support of the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Eighth meeting
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Item 22.3 of the provisional agenda

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND COOPERATION

Synthesis Report of Information on National, Regional and International Information Systems

Note by the Executive Secretary

DRAFT – DO NOT QUOTE

1. Introduction

1. In order to develop meaningful and effective action to enhance the implementation of Articles 16 to 19 as well as related provisions of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, by decision VII/29, adopted a programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation. Element two of the programme of work provides for the development or strengthening of national, regional and international systems for the gathering and dissemination of relevant information on technology transfer and cooperation and technical and scientific cooperation, including the establishment of effective networks of electronic databases of relevant technology.

2. The preamble to the programme element further explained that activities under this programme element should build on existing initiatives and programmes with a view to maximizing synergy and avoiding the duplication of work, and should ensure accessibility of such systems for indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders. It also explained that, at the international level, these systems, using the clearing-house mechanism, would provide, *inter alia*, information on the availability of relevant technologies, including their technical parameters, economic and social aspects, data on patents (owners and date of expiration), models of contracts and associated legislation; the identified technology needs of Parties, as well as case-studies and best-practices on measures and mechanisms to create enabling environments for technology transfer and technology cooperation.

3. Two activities under this programme element foresaw the compilation and synthesis of information on existing information systems for technology transfer and cooperation by the Executive Secretary:

- (a) Under activity 2.2.1, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake a compilation and synthesis of information on national and regional information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including the identification of best-practices and of needs for further improvements, in particular in regard to the accessibility of such systems for indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders as well as information on capacity and human resources available and needed;

/...

- (b) Under activity 2.4.2, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake a compilation and synthesis of information on regional and international information systems, including best-practices and opportunities for further development, and make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, as appropriate.
4. The table annexed to the present document responds to the above requests. The table was prepared by initiating a web-based search for existing systems and by analyzing the systems found in accordance with the requirements spelt out in activities 2.2.1 and 2.4.2. The webpages of national clearing-houses were included in the search and analysis.
5. This table was also used as a basis for the development of proposals to enhance the clearing-house mechanism as a key mechanism for exchange of information on technologies and in the development of advice and guidance on the use of new information exchange formats, protocols and standards to enable interoperability among relevant existing systems of national and international information exchange. The development of these proposals was foreseen in activities 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of the programme of work. They are made available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/CBD/COP/8/19/Add.2.
6. As requested by activity 2.4.2, links to pertinent information systems were also included in the information database on technology transfer that is available on the provisional webpages on technology transfer and cooperation. These webpages are accessible under the clearing house mechanism of the Convention, at www.biodiv.org.

ANNEX

Compilation and synthesis of information on national, regional and international information systems for technology transfer and cooperation

Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
National Information Systems									
Cleaner production Germany http://www.cleaner-production.de	Germany	English, German	Public	Private	Offers access to a range of possible EST to be used in different fields.	Having the website in two languages improves the communication of information. Offers open access.	No information on resources required to use technology. Offers a brief description of the technology with contact information.	N/A	Offers a means for potential users to express their needs related to technologies Activity 2.1.2
Russian Environmental Technologies http://ecotechru.chat.ru/english/index.htm	Russian Federation	Russian, English	Public	Private	National database of ESTs	Offers open access. Information was well organized making it simple to query the database and retrieve needed information.	Includes contact information of the company supplying the technology, and a brief description are provided.	N/A	N/A
Environmental Technology Opportunities Portal http://www.epa.gov/etop/	U.S.	English	Public	Private	Environmentally friendly technologies that aim at improving the environment.	The information is provided in English only, and it is limited to US products.	Contact information is indicated for each field. Technology developers have access to needed information.	The grant programs for SME promotes innovation.	More information about the technologies may improve the system Activity 2.3.1.(b)
TechKnow3.0 http://www.techknow.org/index.cfm	U.S.	English	Public	Private	Includes environmental remediation and ozone protection technologies	The information is provided in English only, and it is limited to US products.	Includes a technical description, cost, contact information, patent information.	Includes information to assist in decision-making	The latest technologies date from 2004. There are only 18 technologies in the ozone protection database.

The National Environmental Technology Database http://www.sustainableusa.org/netd/	US	English	Public	Private	A database of companies that provide EST.	Information is well organized making it simple to query the database and retrieve needed information. The information is provided in English only.	Includes contact information and at times a description of the technology.	Users of the database may subscribe to listserv informing them of new technologies.	Links in the system need updating.
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
EPA - Technology Transfer Network http://www.epa.gov/ttn/catc/rblc/htm/welcome.html	U.S.	English	Public	Private	Database of clean air technologies	The information is provided in English only, and it is limited to US products.	Contact information is available.	There are multiple ways to search for the information.	Information about the technology could be added.
The Austrian Environmental Technology Database: http://www.umwelttechnik.at/en/index.php	Austria	German and English	Public	Private	The network was built for EST transfer.	Although the user has the option to read the site in English or German, most of the documents and information are in German.	Includes contact information of the company supplying the technology.	The objective of the network is to promote Austrian EST worldwide. This is accomplished through a close collaboration with the Austrian companies.	Having the option of navigating the site (documents and other) solely in English.
The Swedish Environmental Technology Network http://www.sweden-tech.com/	Sweden	Swedish, English, French, Spanish, Hungarian, Polish, Chinese, Slovakish, Romanian, Portuguese, Russian	Public	Private	The network provides different services in the field of EST.	It is easily accessible particularly thanks to its use of 11 languages.	Includes contact information of the company and their field of specialization. There are also a few case studies of how the network has facilitated the TT.	The case studies provide background on the company's success as well as information on how the network has enhanced that success.	There is no space for technologies needed.

WetKit http://www.wetkit.net/modules/1/	Canada	English, French	Public	Both	The network covers tools relating to wetland conservation.	Accessible to different audiences. The website's only topic is wetland.	The tools are available through the web and can also be ordered.	The range of tools available is quite large and available in different formats. Feedback is requested after using the tool.	The network could include appropriate technologies as well. Activity 2.3.1.(b)
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
The French Ministry of Industry Database of Environmental Technology http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/base-tde/index.htm	France	French	Public	Private	The database consists of environmentally sound technologies.	Possibility of language barrier.	Includes the description of the technology, the companies in France that have acquired it, the patent information, the economic and commercial implications of the technology.	Providing references of case studies and links related to the technology.	Last time it was updated is in February 2004.
The Aboriginal Mapping Network http://www.native-maps.org/	B.C., Canada	English	Public	Public	Network created by BC's First Nations to map their community and environment. Activity 2.2.1	The network is specifically directed at First Nations. It only uses the English language which could limit its accessibility.	Includes training information: free on-line training, university training (courses specifically provided for First Nations and general courses). Also includes different papers discussing indigenous issues about TEK and/or IPR.	Part of the data collected (particularly for Traditional Use Studies) is communicated to the government to integrate the results in the resource management plan. Activity 2.3.1.(c)	This initiative would probably benefit from expanding throughout Canada therefore having a wider exchange of experiences.

USDA - Agricultural Research Service http://www.ars.usda.gov/partnering/	U.S.	English	Public	Private. Technologies with their respective patents.	The ARS has created a platform for the exchange of information on technologies (including natural resources, biotechnology and other).	Information was well organized making it simple to query the database and retrieve needed information. The information is provided in English only.	Includes contact information. Some of the resources needed are described in the patent document of each technology.	The partnering initiative promotes the moving of the technology from the research to the marketplace. Activity 2.1.2.	To have a focus on EST. Activity 2.1.2.
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
German Appropriate Technology and Ecoefficiency Programme (GATE). www.gtz.de/gate	Asia, Africa, South America	Mainly in English, although some elements can be found in French, Spanish or German.	Public	?	the governmental cooperation assists in disseminating appropriate technology to developing countries, among them EST.	This program targets only developing countries and NGO working in the development sector. Although it has projects all around the world, it does not have offices in all countries. Activity 2.1.2	The GATE offers a yearly seminar on appropriate technology (AT). It helps in developing local innovation by funding and assists in providing the AT to NGO.	Funding program to promote local innovations.	Since the internet is not widely used in developing countries, it might be hard to contact the GATE, unless they open more local offices.
A Guide to Integrated Coastal Zone Management http://www.netcoast.nl/	Netherlands	English	Public	Both	Soft technologies about managing the coastal zone.	There is a demo available for some technologies, but for the full access it is required to order the software.	For some technologies, the manual is provided, for others, only the contact information. The requirements to download and use the software are mentioned.	Different training possibilities about coastal management are mentioned.	The following topics could be added: needs assessment and decision-making tools. Activity 2.3.1.(c)

BIODI http://biodi.sdsc.edu/	U.S.	English	Public	Public	The website has different soft technologies that help modelling the environment and other.	The site is intended for professionals and researchers.	The softwares are downloadable from the site and accompanied by a manual. The resources needed are mentioned.	The site focuses on softwares that help in analysing ecological and environmental data only. By being more specialized in one field, the user is less lost by the multitude of existing technologies.	When the number of softwares will increase, it might be better to organize them under headings.
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
The Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species Site (SGNIS) http://sgnis.org/ http://sgnis.org/publicat/96_22.htm	U.S.	English	Public	Both	An information system that gives access to soft technologies to monitor and reduce the occurrence of invasive species.	This information system is mainly directed at researchers and scientists.	Includes contact informations at the end of each paper. In some cases, resources needed are mentioned.	The availability of information on the technology.	No space provided for mentioning research needs.
Regional Information Systems									
APCTT http://www.apctt.org/	Asia and the Pacific	English	Public	Private	APCTT is a hub for the transfer of environmentally and socially responsible technologies.	There is a service fee for every successful transaction, which could limit the accessibility to smaller local companies. Activity 2.3.1.(b)	Includes consulting services.	A list of technologies needed and technologies provided exist. The APCTT provides matching and consulting services. In addition there is assistance for local SME.	To promote environmentally sound technologies to local SME by reducing the service fee. Some important links are inactive.

APEC Virtual Center for Environmental Technology Exchange http://www.apec-vc.org/	APEC countries	English	Public	Private	APEC Virtual Center has established a network between its members that facilitates the transfer of environmental technologies.	The network is aimed at professionals that seek these technologies. Activity 2.3.1.(b)	Includes a brief description of the technology and the contact information.	The user gets the contact information of each company that offers the requested technology.	There are few technologies mentioned and there is almost no description. In addition, there is no space provided for users to comment on their experience in technology transfer. Activity 2.4.1
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
European Community CHM http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/	E.U.	Mainly English, but some links and documents are in different languages too.	Public	Private	The national focal point provides information on EST.	The network provides information about EST developed by SME. It is aimed at anyone who has an interest in new environmental technologies.	Description of some of the technologies (around 200 in all) with contact information.	Promoting the R&D in SME.	Create a network where all the ESTs funded by the European Community and protected by IPR are included. Activity 2.3.1.(a)
International Information Systems									
UNEP - Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. http://www.unep.or.jp/	International	English, Japanese	Public	Public	It promotes the transfer of environmentally sound technologies through a downloadable interface.	Information was well organized making it simple to query the database and retrieve needed information.	Manual provided on using the tools (multi-language) as well as virtual training. System requirements for PALMOLARE: win95, win 98, win 2000 or win xp. Requirements for the ESTIS manual: PDF Activity 2.4.2	Capacity building for sharing information on EST.	More tools could be added.

EMERALD http://www.urban-emerald.net/	International	English	Public	Both	Network providing information on ESTs and decision-making tools as well as discussing other environmental fields like urban planning.	This site targets specially the urban managers. Some of the trainings are free. Accessibility is restricted to English speakers. Activity 2.3.1.(b)	The network provides contact information as well as trainings for some of the technologies. Activity 2.4.2.	Being directed at a specific audience, the search is more focused and less broad.	Having this website in other languages would probably broaden its audience.
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
The Global Directory for environmental Technology. http://eco-web.com	international	English	Public	Private	EST relating to transport, energy, wastewater, air pollution, recycling, soil preservation.	Information was well organized making it simple to query the database and retrieve needed information. The companies are from 147 countries.	Includes contact information of the companies. In addition, there is a forum where users can post articles and discuss their experiences. Activity 2.4.2.	Involving local companies from developing countries by providing their contact information.	Give a more detailed description of what type of technologies are used by the company, the level of skills required, and other. Activity 2.3.1. (b)
UNFCCC http://unfccc.int/2860.php	international	English	Public	Both	The CH promotes EST in order to combat climate change.	Accessibility to TT: CLEAR is through a free login. Except for possible language barrier, it is easy to navigate through the network.	Includes decision making tools, adaptation options, needs assessment. Activities 2.4.2. and 2.3.1.(b)	To include the decision making tools and other useful information at low or no cost.	The technologies do not cover a broad range of fields.
SANet - Sustainable Alternatives Network http://www.sustainablealternatives.net/	International	English, Spanish, Portuguese	Public	Both	Promotes the transfer of clean technologies.	The use of three main languages greatly enhances the accessibility to information.	A list of experts (by field of expertise) with their contact information is provided, as well as case studies and financial tools. Activity 2.4.2.	Putting the technology seeker in contact with experts enhances the quality of decision making. Activity 2.1.2	Information about the clean technology itself is missing.

ESTIS http://www.estis.net/	international	English for the main website, different languages for the ESTIS community	Public??	Private	ESTIS has created a community where there is an exchange of environmental information and ESTs	The website is intended for professionals, NGOs and governments. Access to communities of IT is not easy to find.	Provides a manual on how to build and use ESTIS.	N/A	N/A
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/ private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
Greentia www.greentia.org	international	English	Public	Private	Greentia is a directory of companies that provide technologies that help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	Information was well organized making it simple to query the database and retrieve needed information. The information is provided in English only.	A project broker is available to match needs and availabilities as well as the manual for using it. Contact information of the companies are provided. Activity 2.4.2.	The project broker facilitates the technology search.	Starting April 2005, support for the service is no longer available, so the information is not always up-to-date. A continuous support would enhance the quality of the network.
BIOBIN http://www1.oecd.org/ehs/biobin/	UNIDO and OECD countries	English	Public	Private	BIOBIN has a list of biotechnology products relating genetic information.	Information was well organized making it simple to query the database and retrieve needed information. The information is provided in English only.	Includes the name of the company (with sometime a contact name) and the name of the gene associated with the trait.	UNIDO and OECD have joined efforts to avoid duplication between BINAS and BioTrack.	To provide the contact information of the company.

FAO Biodec http://www.fao.org/biotech/inventory_admin/dep/default.asp	international	English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Chinese.	Public	Private	FAO Biotech collects and disseminates crop biotechnology information and techniques.	The website is easily accessible through its use of five main languages in developing countries. A login restricted to members is required to have access to more information.	Includes country-specific department names and information.	Giving information on crop biotechnology by country (what are the departments / universities that have an interest and a role in the field).	The information provided for each project is almost nil
Name of network	Geographical coverage	Languages used	Public / Private	Technology: public/private	Relevance to Decision VII / 29 Annex Programme Element 2 Activity 2.1.2	Accessibility of system Activity 2.2.1	Info on resources available & needed Activity 2.2.1	Best practices Activity 2.2.1	Opportunities for development Activity 2.2.1
maESTRO II Directory - http://www.unep.or.jp/maestro2/	International	English	Public	Both	Promotes the exchange of environmentally sound technologies through a network.	Easily accessible because it can be acquired in different formats. Targets decision makers in governmental institutions and in organizations.	Indicates resources needed to download the version. All the contact information is available as well as pertinent information on the technology. Activity 2.4.2.	For every technology mentioned there is information about its cost, its cultural acceptability, effectiveness, advantages, disadvantages, level of skills required, etc. Activity 2.3.1. (b)	The fields of technologies included could be broadened.

<p>UNEP - Capacity Building and Technology Support Database http://capacitybuilding.unep.ch/website/</p>	<p>International</p>	<p>English</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>The database gives an overview of the technologies and development projects being implemented in countries, among these are environmental technologies and projects.</p>	<p>The information is easily accessible and well organized. A username and password are required for governments to record their requests for assistance in capacity building and technology support</p>	<p>This is a database of projects throughout the world, which gives an idea of the scope of resources available and no mention of resources needed.</p>	<p>This information system gives access to governments to request assistance in technology support. It can be searched using different parameters.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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