



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

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10 December 2007

NOTIFICATION

Biosafety Clearing-House Survey

Dear Madam/Sir,

In accordance with requests made by both the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP)¹ and the Informal Advisory Committee of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH-IAC)², I am pleased to announce the release of a new online survey on the recently revamped BCH. It is available at <http://bch.cbd.int/survey/>. The primary purpose of the survey is to obtain feedback in order to compare improvements in the BCH, particularly with respect to user-friendliness and the quality of the information registered³, against existing baseline data. The results of the survey will be collated and submitted for consideration by the Parties at their fourth meeting, being convened in Bonn, 12-16 May 2008. This is being done as part of the review of implementation of the Protocol envisaged in the medium-term programme of work.

Kindly note that this survey is intended for different categories of users as follows: Sections I and II target general users who access the BCH to find biosafety information; Section III targets BCH account-holders who create and manage records through the BCH Management Centre; and Section IV targets information technology (IT) experts. Accordingly, National Focal Points for the Cartagena Protocol and the BCH are invited and encouraged to complete the survey and also to bring it to the attention of other BCH users, BCH account-holders and IT experts in their respective countries.

In order for the Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the survey results for the fourth meeting of the COP-MOP, it is kindly requested that the survey be completed as soon as possible and preferably no later than **31 January 2008**.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

¹ See Decision BS-III/2 available at <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/default.aspx?m=MOP-03&id=11058&lg=0>.

² The final report of the third meeting of the BCH-IAC, convened in Montreal on 4 and 5 October 2007, is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bch/bchiac-03/official/bchiac-03-02-en.doc>.

³ A complete description of the most recent release of the BCH is available at <https://bch.cbd.int/news/info.shtml?postid=41475>.

To: National Focal Points for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
National Focal Points for the Biosafety Clearing-House

