

**NOTIFICATION****Kunming Biodiversity Fund Project, “Enhancing Biosafety Capacity for Sustainable Use”**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is pleased to announce the launch of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) project entitled “Enhancing Biosafety Capacity for Sustainable Use.” The project, which will be implemented over a period of 30 months with a total budget of USD 1,299,996.50, has a global scope and is open to eligible Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The initiative is jointly implemented by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and aims to strengthen national capacities for biosafety risk assessment and implementation in support of the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

***Background and Rationale***

The project addresses several key challenges faced by Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in effectively implementing their biosafety obligations. These challenges include limited technical and institutional capacity to develop and maintain functional biosafety systems, insufficient expertise in conducting scientifically sound risk assessments of living modified organisms, and a shortage of trained personnel to support evidence-based decision-making and regulatory processes. By strengthening national capacities in these areas, the project seeks to enhance the ability of Parties to implement biosafety measures effectively while supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The initiative aims to support countries in operationalizing the biosafety priorities identified in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) while strengthening alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Target 17.

The project will further focus on risk assessment of living modified organisms (LMOs) and its integration with the management of invasive alien species, promoting a more coordinated approach to biosafety and biosecurity.

***Expected Outcomes***

The project is expected to support national biosafety capacities through a combination of targeted training, knowledge exchange and institutional strengthening. Specifically, it will enhance the knowledge and skills of regulatory authorities through context-specific training programmes tailored to national and regional needs. The project will also strengthen risk assessment practices by establishing and supporting a community of practice that facilitates continuous learning, peer-to-peer exchange and access to technical expertise. In addition, it will contribute to strengthening institutional capacities for biosafety implementation while promoting greater synergies between biosafety and biosecurity frameworks, particularly in relation to the assessment and management of invasive alien species.

***Call for Expressions of Interest***

Eligible Parties wishing to participate in the project are invited to submit an Expression of Interest in the form of an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological

To: Cartagena Protocol national focal points, CBD national focal points (where CPB focal points have not yet been designated)

Diversity and endorsed by the National Focal Point for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Parties are kindly requested to briefly describe the progress made in establishing an operational national biosafety framework, including existing measures for conducting risk assessment (maximum 2 pages). The Secretariat and/or ICGEB will follow up with Parties that have submitted expressions of interest to take part in activities related to needs assessment, among other activities.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by e-mail to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) as soon as possible, but no later than **1 September 2026**.

Due to the limited resources available under the project, participation in the project will be limited to a finite number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that have an operational national biosafety framework and existing measures for conducting risk assessments of living modified organisms, ensuring appropriate regional balance.

Further information regarding eligibility, application procedures and submission deadlines regarding other activities related to the Project (e.g. workshops, national gap assessments, etc.) will be communicated by the Secretariat in the form of notifications.

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

*(Signed)* Astrid Schomaker  
Executive Secretary