



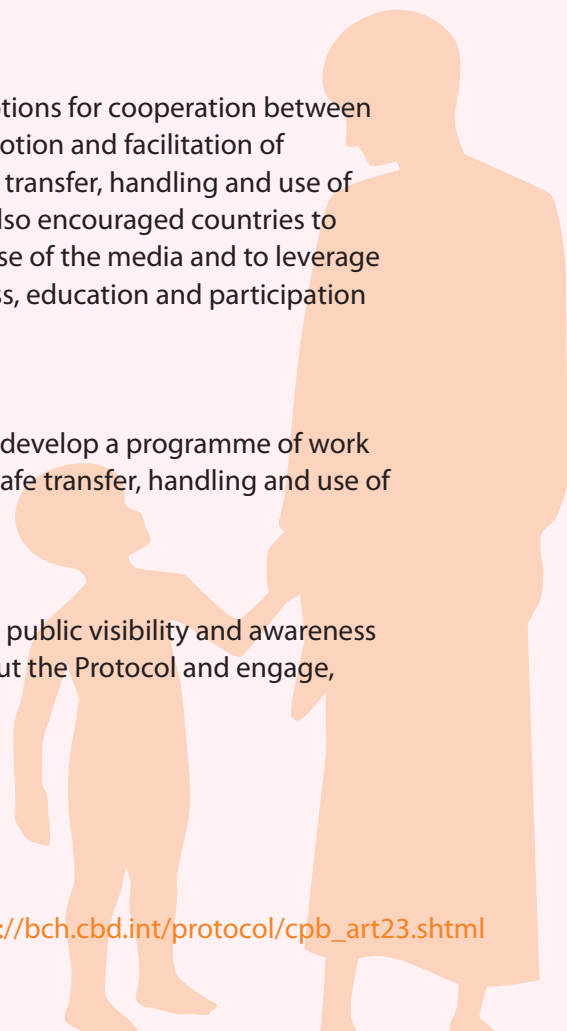
Public Awareness and Participation

The Protocol requires Parties, to cooperate with other States and international bodies, to promote and facilitate public awareness and education, including access to information, regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs). It also requires Parties to consult the public in the decision-making process, to make public the final decision taken and to inform public about the means of access to the Biosafety Clearing-House. Since the adoption of the Protocol, a number of measures have been taking place in the field of public awareness and participation under the Protocol.

At the second meeting of the COP-MOP, the Parties considered, "options for cooperation between Parties, other States and relevant international bodies on the promotion and facilitation of public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms". The second meeting of the COP-MOP also encouraged countries to develop and implement national programmes, to make effective use of the media and to leverage opportunities for cooperation in the promotion of public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs.

At the fourth meeting of the Parties, COP-MOP 4, Parties agreed to develop a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs.

The Secretariat has also established outreach strategies to increase public visibility and awareness of the Protocol, inform and educate different target audiences about the Protocol and engage, motivate and build collaborative partnerships.





Fast Facts

- According to the first national reports, many countries indicated that they set up websites and online databases such as registries on LMOs to facilitate public access to biosafety information.
- Many countries also have experience in issuing publications on biosafety issues.
- To date, more than 100 countries have an element in their draft National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs) to help comply with public awareness and participation under the Protocol, developed with assistance from the UNEP-GEF capacity-building projects.
- To date, more than 1000 biosafety-related publications and information resources are posted in the Biosafety Information Resource Center (BIRC) in the Biosafety Clearing-House.
- COP-MOP 4 invited Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to make available through the Biosafety Clearing-House, materials and information on opportunities for supporting projects related to public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.

Learn More

Public Awareness and Participation under the Protocol:

https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art23.shtml

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

Media and Outreach: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_media.shtml

Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.cbd.int>

Publications: <http://www.cbd.int/programmes/outreach/awareness/publications.shtml?grp=cpb>

Biosafety Protocol News-Newsletter: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_newsletter.shtml

Frequently asked questions: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_faq.shtml

Online forums and collaborative portals: <https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/>

International Year on Biological Diversity (IYB): <https://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>

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