



United Nations
Environment Programme

UNEP-GEF Project for Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House



Global Environment
Facility

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2005 First Bi-Annual Progress Report on the UNEP-GEF Project for Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) June 2005

Introduction

1. This is an update of the activities that have been undertaken by the BCH team to enable countries to participate in the project in the first half of 2005, January – June 2005.

Current Status

I. Developing Material for Training

2. Six interactive modules on the following topics have completed. These modules will be used as training tools by the regional experts to help countries understand their obligations relating to the BCH as Parties and in assisting them to use and enter information in the BCH. These Modules can now be found and downloaded from the website www.unep.ch/biosafety.

- **“Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”**
- **“Introduction to the Biosafety Clearing-House”**
- **“Introduction to the BCH Central Portal”.**
- **“Finding Information on the BCH Central Portal”**
- **“Technical Requirements for National Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House ”**
- **“Entering Information Using the Management Centre”**

3. In addition, a curriculum and methodology for the training of regional experts has been developed in collaboration with UNITAR and InWEnt. This was used for a two-week intensive training workshop in Kuala Lumpur in January 2005 to train regional experts to assist participating countries to:

- Make a choice of national participation in the BCH based on the options recommended by the SCBD;
- Assess their current situation vis-à-vis the BCH and to help them analyse their needs for the nBCH;
- Analyse and put in place a sustainability strategy to ensure that longer-term requirements for the continued use of the BCH are in place right from the beginning;
- Train at national level workshops on the use and obligations relating the BCH.

4. In addition, Modules three, four and five will have replaced the appropriate modules of the toolkit on the central portal of the Biosafety Clearing House that is hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

II. Country-Level Participation

5. Based on the recommendations of COP-MOP1, UNEP-GEF Biosafety Unit had submitted to the GEF Council, for its November work programme, an add-on project to the current BCH project, which will expand eligibility for 89 additional countries.
6. In May 2005, the GEF Secretariat approved this add-on project for an additional 89 countries to become eligible for participating in the project. A List of the 89 countries is attached as Annex 2. As of 30 June 53 countries have forwarded to the Biosafety Unit endorsement letters from their GEF Focal Points, informing us of their strong interest in participating. A list of the original 50 countries participating in the project is attached as Annex 1.
7. The "Operational Handbook" (ver. 2) for countries to participate in the BCH project is now available for download through our website www.unep.ch/biosafety.
8. Participating countries can, starting September 2005, access fully trained and knowledgeable regional experts to assist them with issues relating to their participation in and implementation of the project.
9. Currently, 12 countries, Belarus, Latvia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Cambodia, Vietnam, Djibouti, DPR Korea, Tajikistan, Barbados Moldova and Lesotho have sent the BCH team their initial draft MOUs to start negotiating the terms of the in-country participation in the BCH project. The MOU for the Republic of Moldova has been successfully signed and the first cash advance for in-country activities has been forwarded to the country.
10. Prior to the start of second Meeting of the Parties in Montreal in May 2005, in collaboration with the SCBD, the BCH Team carried out two-day workshop on the BCH for approximately 51 country participants.

III. Regional Advisors

11. Based on the recommendations of the Selection Panel set up for the selection of Regional Advisors, an initial number of 30 experts were invited to attend a training workshop in Kuala Lumpur from 31 January 2005. 28 participants actually attended the workshop, of which 24 were deemed to have successfully completed of the workshop. Five of these advisors are already involved as Coordinators in GEF Biosafety projects. These 24 participants will be considered to be BCH Regional Advisors and will be offered retainer contracts of up to 70 days over a two-year period with UNEP-GEF to enable them to assist countries to participate in the Biosafety Clearing-House. The training workshop for Regional Advisors was organised in collaboration with InWent, UNITAR, SCBD and the governments of Canada, Switzerland and the USA. The report from this training workshop can be found on the www.unep.ch/biosafety/bch.htm website.
12. During the training workshop in Kuala Lumpur, the participants agreed that the term experts was not entirely appropriate for the type of advice they were likely to provide to countries. By consensus, it was agreed that they would, henceforth, be called BCH Regional Advisors.
13. The short biographies of the 25 selected advisors can be found on www.unep.ch/biosafety.

IV. Collaboration with Partners

14. In collaboration with the SCBD and the Governments of Canada, Switzerland and USA, the BCH team carried out two workshops. The first was for the Regional Advisors in Kuala Lumpur in January 2005 and the other was for country participants and was held back-to-back with the second Meeting of the Parties in May 2005. The Government of Germany also collaborated for the Regional Advisors workshop. Representatives of the NGOs attended the former meeting and representatives of the Global Industry Coalition attended the latter workshop.

15. In collaboration with the UNEP-GEF Implementation projects and the US Governments' NBII, the BCH team has organised a mission to China (which currently has an Implementation project) in February 2005 to enable the Chinese government to access information and technical expertise from the designers of the US templates and tools.

Annex 1

List of Potentially Eligible Countries for the BCH project approved in March 2004

1	Antigua and Barbuda	26	Madagascar
2	Bahamas	27	Maldives
3	Bangladesh	28	Mali
4	Barbados	29	Marshall Islands
5	Belarus	30	Mauritius
6	Belize	31	Mongolia
7	Bolivia	32	Mozambique
8	Brazil	33	Nicaragua
9	Burkina Faso	34	Nigeria
10	Cambodia	35	Palau
11	Croatia	36	Panama
12	Czech Republic	37	Moldova, Republic of
13	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	38	Romania
14	Djibouti	39	Samoa
15	Ecuador	40	Slovenia
16	Egypt	41	South Africa
17	El Salvador	42	Tajikistan
18	Ethiopia	43	Tonga
19	Ghana	44	Trinidad and Tobago
20	Grenada	45	Tunisia
21	Iran, Islamic Republic of	46	Turkey
22	Jordan	47	Ukraine
23	Latvia	48	Tanzania, United Republic of
24	Lesotho	49	Venezuela
25	Liberia	50	Viet Nam

Annex 1

List of Potentially Eligible Countries for the BCH project approved in May 2005

	Parties Before MOP1
1	Bhutan
2	Botswana
3	Fiji
4	Hungary
5	Lithuania
6	Nauru
7	Niue (Not UN country)
8	Saint Kitts and Nevis
9	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
10	Senegal
11	Slovakia

	Parties After MOP1 (as of March 2005)
1	Albania
2	Algeria
3	Armenia
4	Dominica
5	Estonia
6	Gambia
7	Guatemala
8	Indonesia
9	Kiribati
10	Lao People's Democratic Republic
11	Niger
12	Paraguay
13	Peru
14	Rwanda
15	Seychelles
16	Solomon Islands
17	Sri Lanka
18	Syrian Arab Republic
19	Togo
20	Zambia

Not CP Party but Eligible as per MOP1 Guidance to GEF	
1	Angola
2	Argentina
3	Azerbaijan
4	Benin
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina
6	Burundi
7	Cape Verde
8	Central African Republic
9	Chad
10	Chile
11	Comoros
12	Congo
13	Cook Islands (Not UN country)
14	Costa Rica
15	Côte d'Ivoire
16	Congo, Democratic Republic of the
17	Dominican Republic
18	Equatorial Guinea
19	Eritrea
20	Gabon
21	Georgia
22	Guinea
23	Guinea-Bissau
24	Guyana
25	Haiti
26	Honduras
27	Jamaica
28	Kazakhstan
29	Kyrgyzstan
30	Lebanon
31	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
32	Malawi
33	Malta
34	Mauritania
35	Micronesia, Federated States of
36	Morocco
37	Myanmar
38	Nepal
39	Pakistan
40	Papua New Guinea
41	Philippines
42	Russian Federation
43	Saint Lucia
44	Sao Tome and Principe
45	Sierra Leone
46	Sudan
47	Suriname
48	Swaziland
49	Thailand
50	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of
51	Turkmenistan
52	Tuvalu
53	Uruguay
54	Uzbekistan
55	Vanuatu
56	Yemen
57	Serbia and Montenegro
58	Zimbabwe