



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 Second Bi--Annual Progress Report on the UNEP-GEF Project for Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) December 2006

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 second half of 2006, July – December 2006.

Current Status

I. Training Package

2. In order to meet the first objective of training and developing core human resources, a training package has been developed and will be delivered at a national level and will be in a form usable by countries for their own BCH national workshops. The package will have several different components, which would include:

- Background material,
- Interactive modules,
- User-friendly computer based training manual,
- Database and website templates, and
- “Learning-by-doing” Case Studies.

3. The following six modules have been developed as of 1 February 2005, as training tools that can be used to help countries understand their obligations relating to the BCH as Parties and in assisting them to use and enter information in the BCH;

- **Module 1:** “Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”
- **Module 2:** “Introduction to the Biosafety Clearing-House”
- **Module 3:** “Introduction to the BCH Central Portal”
- **Module 4:** “Finding Information on the BCH Central Portal”
- **Module 5:** “Entering Information Using the Management Centre”
- **Module 6:** “Requirements for National Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House ”

4. These modules have been developed, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to allow them to be developed in a pedagogical manner, and the content has been provided and reviewed by world-renowned experts in the field. They have also been reviewed and commented on by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

5. Two additional interactive modules have also been developed. These allow trainees to work individually and are also able to test their knowledge and learning at their own pace. The two modules are:

- **Interactive Module 1:** “Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”
- **Interactive Module 2:** “Introduction to the Biosafety Clearing-House”

6. Additionally, a national workshop module has been developed for use primarily by Regional Advisors and other trainers in order to deliver training on the BCH at a national level. The national workshop module combines modules, interactive modules, case studies and different applications and databases provided by the donor governments into one comprehensive modular package that allows trainers to pick-and-choose different units, as required, for the training that is being conducted. This national workshop module has been developed by two Regional Advisors based on their experience in delivering a similar workshop during the second Meeting of the Parties in Montreal in May 2005.

7. The training package which includes Modules One through Six, Interactive Modules One and Two and the national workshop module can be found on the www.unep.ch/biosafety/bch.htm website and can be downloaded at any time.

8. In addition, all Modules 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.

9. Up to 19 case studies have been developed and are available for use by countries and Regional Advisors for training purposes. Specific stakeholder modules, including NGOs, Industry, Customs and other enforcement officers, decision makers, data entry persons etc, are now being developed and will be available in early 2007.

10. All modules have been placed on a knowledge management tool called MOODLE and can be accessed through www.unep.ch/biosafety website using a guest login. Most modules are now available in French, Spanish and English, with translations expected to be complete by the first half of 2007.

11. The project has bought licenses to use NETOP for class-room teaching and this has been extremely useful at the national workshop-level with both participants and Regional Advisors benefiting from its use.

II. Country-Level Participation

12. 139 countries are potentially eligible to participate in the BCH project (as of May 2005). All these countries had been informed of their eligibility; and 106 countries have already responded (as of 31 December 2006), informing us of their strong interest in participating.

13. As of 31 December 2006, 60 MOUs had been negotiated with countries and the first cash advance of 75% sent to them. Another 28 MOUs are under process of negotiation and expect to be signed by the middle of 2007.

14. In addition, approximately 30 national-level workshops were also held to assist countries to use and participate in the Biosafety Clearing-House with Regional Advisor participation. It is expected that this number will rise to approximately 200-250 national-level workshops in 2007.

Workshop at the margins of the Third COP/MOP in Curitiba (March 2006)

15. Prior to the start of third Meeting of the Parties in Montreal in March 2006, in collaboration with the SCBD, the BCH Team carried out a two-day workshop on the BCH for approximately 50 country participants.

16. Two of the trained BCH Regional Advisors were the trainers for the workshop that focused on how to use and participate in the Biosafety Clearing-House.

III. Regional Advisors

17. As reported in 2005, a meeting of experts in May 2004 met to discuss the project methodology and concluded that a better design of training delivery would involve the increased use of regional experts or advisers to provide advice, support and training where needed. Therefore, it was decided that the project would provide for intensive and extensive training of a number of Regional Advisors who would then deliver training, advice and assistance to countries during the project life and afterwards.

18. A major focus, therefore, has been to find a number of appropriate regional IT experts and regional experts familiar with the Cartagena Protocol, in consultation with the SCBD and then train them to become effective BCH Regional Advisors. In 2004 the BCH Team developed terms of reference for Regional Advisors in and these were extensively reviewed and commented on by the SCBD and the panel of experts that had attended the meeting in May 2004. This was followed by a world-wide call in the four regions that the project is working in through journals, newspapers and websites. Approximately 400 applications were received and a selection panel (consisting of SCBD, ITU, STAP and UNEP-GEF Biosafety Unit) reviewed and selected a number of experts to be called for the training.

19. Of the ones selected by the Panel, 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 25 were deemed to have successfully completed of the workshop. Five of these advisors are already involved as Coordinators in GEF Biosafety projects.

20. In May 2006, an additional 20 experts were invited to attend a second training of trainers workshop in Bangkok. This workshop followed the same methodology as the first workshop. In addition, the first set of RAs were also invited to attend the second week of training to upgrade skills and to exchange information, experiences and learn from each other.

21. Currently, the number of Regional Advisors stands at 32. 14 are CPB RAs and 18 are IT RAs.

22. Based on the recommendations of the experts in May 2004, the role of the Regional Advisors has been envisioned to include direct support to countries by:

- Assisting in making the choice for type and style of national participation in the BCH;
- Delivering training activities including a training workshop, where required, with national counterparts to train up to 20 participants in the use and access of the BCH; and
- Assisting in setting-up and making the choice of national BCH access operational.

23. As of December 2006, 46 RA missions had been conducted, with the following statistics:

- 33 countries visited
- 4 global missions
- 186 RA days used
- 23 of the 32 RAs used

24. A wide call to ALL countries that are eligible to access RA service (i.e. countries that have already sent their endorsement letters), is periodically sent out requesting countries to send their requests to the BCH Team as soon as possible for requesting RA services; and in January 2007, the BCH Team is expected to plan 17 national-level workshops using Regional Advisors..

25. The short biographies of the selected advisors can be found on <http://www.unep.ch/biosafety/BCH/bio.htm>.

Annex A
List of Participating Countries in the Initial Project (Parties as of MOP1)

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

Annex B
List of Participating Countries after MOP1 and up to 1 March 2006

1	Albania	21	Lebanon
2	Algeria	22	Lithuania
3	Armenia	23	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of
4	Benin	24	Malta
5	Bhutan	25	Mauritania
6	Burundi	26	Niger
7	Comoros	27	Papua New Guinea
8	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	28	Paraguay
9	Costa Rica	29	Peru
10	Côte d'Ivoire	30	Philippines
11	Dominica	31	Rwanda
12	Dominican Republic	32	Saint Kitts and Nevis
13	Eritrea	33	Saint Lucia
14	Estonia	34	Senegal
15	Guinea	35	Slovakia
16	Guyana	36	Sri Lanka
17	Indonesia	37	Sudan
18	Haiti	38	Swaziland
19	Kyrgyzstan	39	Syrian Arab Republic
20	Lao People's Democratic Republic	40	Yemen

Annex C
List of other Eligible Countries under the Expanded Project

1	Angola	2	
		6	Micronesia, Federated States of
2	Argentina	27	Morocco
3	Azerbaijan	28	Myanmar
4	Bosnia and Herzegovina	29	Nauru
5	Botswana	30	Nepal
6	Cape Verde	31	Niue
7	Central African Republic	32	Pakistan
8	Chad	33	Russian Federation
9	Chile	34	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
10	Congo	35	Sao Tome and Principe
11	Cook islands	36	Serbia and Montenegro
12	Equatorial Guinea	37	Seychelles
13	Fiji	38	Sierra Leone
14	Gabon	39	Solomon Islands
15	Gambia	40	Suriname
16	Georgia	41	Thailand
17	Guatemala	42	Togo
18	Guinea-Bissau	43	Turkmenistan
19	Honduras	44	Tuvalu
20	Hungary	45	Uruguay
21	Jamaica	46	Uzbekistan
22	Kazakhstan	47	Vanuatu
23	Kiribati	48	Zambia
24	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	49	Zimbabwe
25	Malawi		

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