



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House of the Cartagena Protocol



Fast Facts

Achieved: Helped countries with capacity, expertise and equipment so they could participate in the Cartagena Protocol's Biosafety Clearing-House.

Where: Global

Cost: GEF funds: \$13.25 million; Co-financing: \$1.404 million

When: March 2004 to September 2009

Partners: 112 countries participated

Achievements

The project provided training, computer help and technical advice to 112 developing countries so they could increase their participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House. The clearing-house is a mechanism set up by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to facilitate an international exchange of information on living modified organisms. The clearing-house is aimed at helping countries participating in the protocol to comply with its rules governing the international transfer and use of these organisms.

Legacy

The work of the project continues in:

- A region-based advisor system of 45 advisors around the world who provide IT and biosafety training.
- A comprehensive training package, lauded by an independent evaluation, that includes interactive modules, case studies on diverse biosafety topics and hands-on exercises for managing data.
- Advancing biosafety agendas around the world. Examples include the approval of a law on living modified organisms in Mongolia, the addition of biosafety topics based on project materials in academic curriculum in Albania, project-developed training modules that were used to design a new biosafety project in Guatemala.
- Decisions made by the countries that participated in the project to better report on living modified organisms' movements and uses as required by the protocol.

20 Projects to Showcase 20 Historic Years of Environmental Finance

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What People Say:

The BCH project stands out as a well-planned initiative that incorporated good design practices.

-from an independent evaluation that gave the project highly satisfactory ratings in five categories including effectiveness, and preparation and readiness

Publications: Tools and publications for the project can be found at: www.unep.org/biosafety and http://bch.cbd.int/help/topics/en/webframe.html?Training_Materials.html

Outputs and Deliverables:

- Raised awareness of the Cartagena Protocol at the country level.
- Developed an extensive package of training materials.
- Trained a core group of 45 regional advisors who trained others.
- Conducted workshops at global, regional, and country levels.
- Provided Internet access to national data on living modified organisms.
- Provided computers and software necessary to use the clearing-house databases.
- Trained people to use computers, software and to navigate the databases.
- Enhanced the international exchange between biosafety personnel so partners could share experience and knowledge.
- Set up an informal international network of peer-to-peer support.

Contact: www.unep.org/dgef or email: gefinfo@unep.org

Photo Credit: Mongolia by Lawrence Hislop/ UNEP/Grid-Arendal; Farms in the Brazilian Amazon by Riccardo Pravettoni/ UNEP/Grid-Arendal