

2nd CHM Expert Meeting

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“Building the Clearing-House”

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



Event hosted in the

VII International Congress of Ecology

July 20 – 23, 1998, Florence, Italy



**Italian National Agency For New Technology,
Energy And The Environment (ENEA)**

1998

Edited by: Francesco Beone

PREAMBLE

Since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the necessity to establish and develop a communication system on biodiversity (namely the "Clearing-House Mechanism" (CHM)) to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and exchange information related to biodiversity and its sustainable use, become evident.

The CHM was conceived as a network of networks and its development was to be based on a step-wise process which would take into account the experiences of all active participants. Its development is supported by discussions, recommendations and decisions made during meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and COP, Regional Workshops and, last but not least, the First CHM Expert Meeting, "Building the CHM", held in Bonn in 1997.

During the first Expert Meeting, international experts discussed the CHM's structure (Secretariat, National FPs, Regional FPs e Thematic FPs levels) and common contents; it was also underlined the necessity to develop a tool-kit in order to assist National Focal Points (NFPs) during the national establishment process.

One year after Bonn and four years after the CHM "foundation date", we are reaching the end of the pilot phase, and the CHM will undergo a review and a reflection phase in order to evidence aspects which need further adjustment and development, and to focus on future needs and challenges.

Italy, in recent years, has stressed the necessity of involving private and industrial sectors in the CHM development process, and has promoted a broader participation of experts from related scientific branches. The Italian NFP organized the Second Expert Meeting on "Building the Clearing-House Mechanism", as a satellite event of the VII International Meeting of Ecology (INTECOL '98, Florence), in order to emphasize this concept, since the CBD will never be fully implemented unless its objectives are more widely known and understood.

The principal aim of the Second CHM Expert Meeting was to establish the elements of a Global Strategic Plan and the specific steps which will have to be taken to ensure the

effective coordination of its components. The participants recognized the importance of early implementation of the Plan by the Executive Secretary of the CBD. The experts also emphasized the importance of facilitating the exchange of ideas and experiences, promoting future collaboration between FPs, and discussing and reaching an agreement on future CHM needs. Throughout the discussions, the key coordinating role of the Secretariat of the CBD in the development of the Plan was highlighted.

Respect and sustainable use of Biological Diversity are intrinsically tied together in the development of a sustainable society (Agenda 21). CBD messages, objectives and relationships with Agenda 21 and other global Conventions, established after the Earth Meeting (Rio, 1992), should be appropriately disseminated. This action is intended to favour potential partners participation, not yet aware to belong to the great project at the fundamentals of the CBD. Worldwide information spreading and active participation to the informative and formative processes, if targeted to all potential users, will promote, in the future years, a wider awareness among biological diversity users and therefore a sustainable use of earth's living resources.

In this scenery, it appears evident why the CHM concept should also include communication and formation items evolving from a simple information and collaboration mechanism. In order to facilitate such purpose, the experts attending the meeting have proposed a broadening of the CHM ("The Vision") which includes added potential objectives. Such widened definition could be a starting point for the long term CHM Strategic Plan preparation.

"The Vision"

The Clearing-House Mechanism is an information and communication network of the CBD Parties and Partners that enhances participation and facilitates and promotes scientific, technical and other co-operation to achieve the objectives and activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

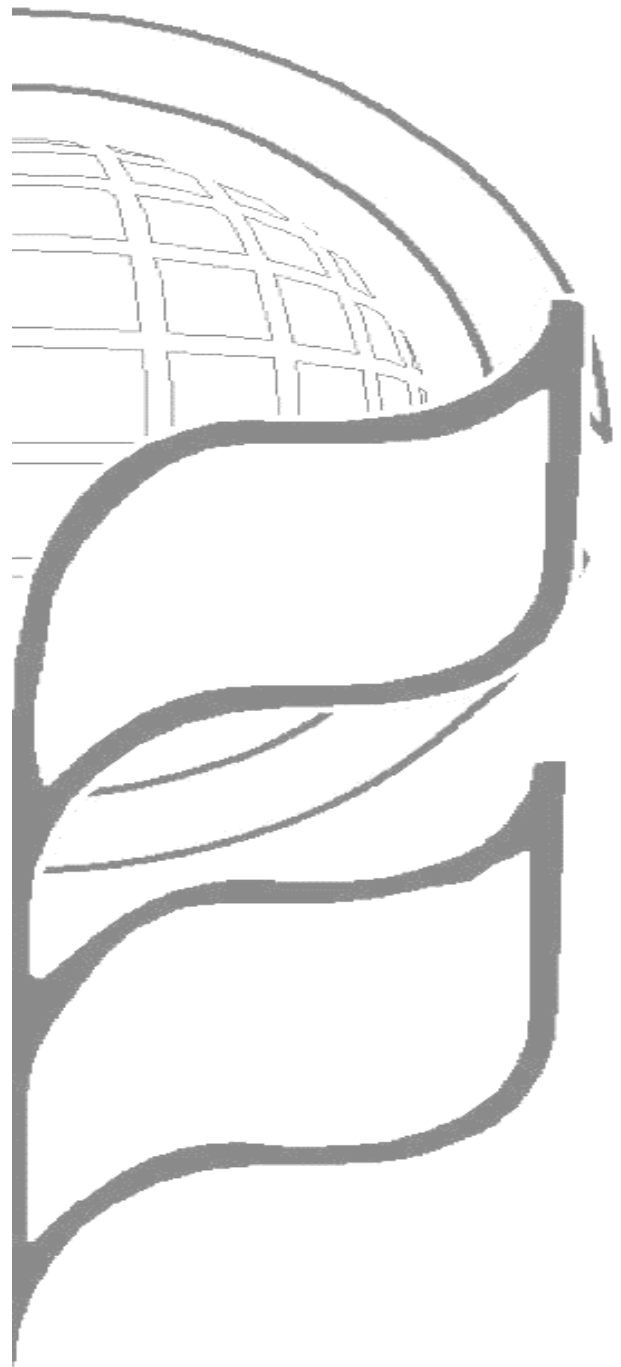
Francesco Mauro

Head, ENEA Environmental Dpt.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Clearing-House Mechanism should:

- Facilitate integrative funding, scientific and technological research and benefit sharing among all Parties and Partners
 - Facilitate and promote the participation in the “Mechanism” of all Parties and Partners (ie. international organisations, private sector, etc.)
 - Facilitate and promote the world-wide global data coverage
 - Facilitate and promote data and meta-data standards and protocols
 - Facilitate the research of integrative funding, the scientific and technological research, the benefit sharing among all Parties and Partners
 - Be needs driven
 - Be built through a step by step processes
 - Be decentralised (a network of networks)
 - Avoid duplication
 - Promote awareness on biodiversity
- Be targeted to all potential users (decision makers, civil servants, scientists, citizens, industries, etc.)
 - Assist the implementation of National Plants and Strategies



GUIDING PRINCIPLES: OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

- **Convention text (1992), Article 18,** Technical and Scientific Cooperation
- **COP-1 (1994), UNEP/CBD/COP/1/8,** Clearing-House Mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation - Note by the Interim Secretariat
- **COP-1(1994), Decision I/3,** Clearing-House Mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation
- **COP-2 (1995), UNEP/CBD/COP/2/6,** Establishment of the Clearing-House Mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation - Note by the Secretariat
- **COP-2 (1995), Decision II/3,** Clearing-House Mechanism
- **SBSTTA-2 (1996), UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/2/9,** Role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in facilitating and promoting technical and Scientific cooperation in research and development - Note by the Secretariat
- **SBSTTA-2 (1996), Recommendation II/6,** Role of the Clearing-House Mechanism in facilitating and promoting technical and Scientific cooperation in research and development
- **COP-3 (1996), UNEP/CBD/COP/3/4,** Operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation - Report by the Executive Secretary
- **COP-3 (1996), Decision III/4,** Clearing-House Mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation
- **SBSTTA-3 (1997), UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/3,** Report on the implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism
- **SBSTTA-3 (1997), Recommendation III/6,** Implementation of the pilot phase of the Clearing-House Mechanism
- **COP-4 (1998), UNEP/CBD/COP/4/8,** Implementation of the pilot phase of the Clearing-House Mechanism - Report of the Executive Secretary
- **COP-4 (1998), Decision IV/2,** Review of the operations of the Clearing-House Mechanism
- **COP-4 (1998), UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.6,** Final Report on the Regional Workshops on the Clearing-House Mechanism

AGENDA

2nd CHM Expert Meeting 20 – 23 July 1998, Florence, "Building the Clearing-House"

20.07.98

<i>morning</i>	Arrival and individual accommodation in the hotels.
14:00-17:30	<p><i>Meeting location:</i> Centro Affari - III° floor room B, Piazza Adua 1, Florence.</p> <p>Presentations on: "International and National Informative Networks: The Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and welcome (F. Mauro)• Message from the Executive Secretary of the CBD (C. Juma)• The CBD (J. Seyani)• Introduction (F. Mauro)• COP-4 Implications on the CHM (M. Auer)• Belgian National Experiences and the way the CHM was built up (J. Van Gothem)• The German Experience (U. Schellberg)• Developing a National CHM Web Site - The UK Experience (M. Vincent)• The Norwegian Clearing-House Mechanism (B. A. Korssjoen)• The Italian CHM (F. Beone)

21.07.98

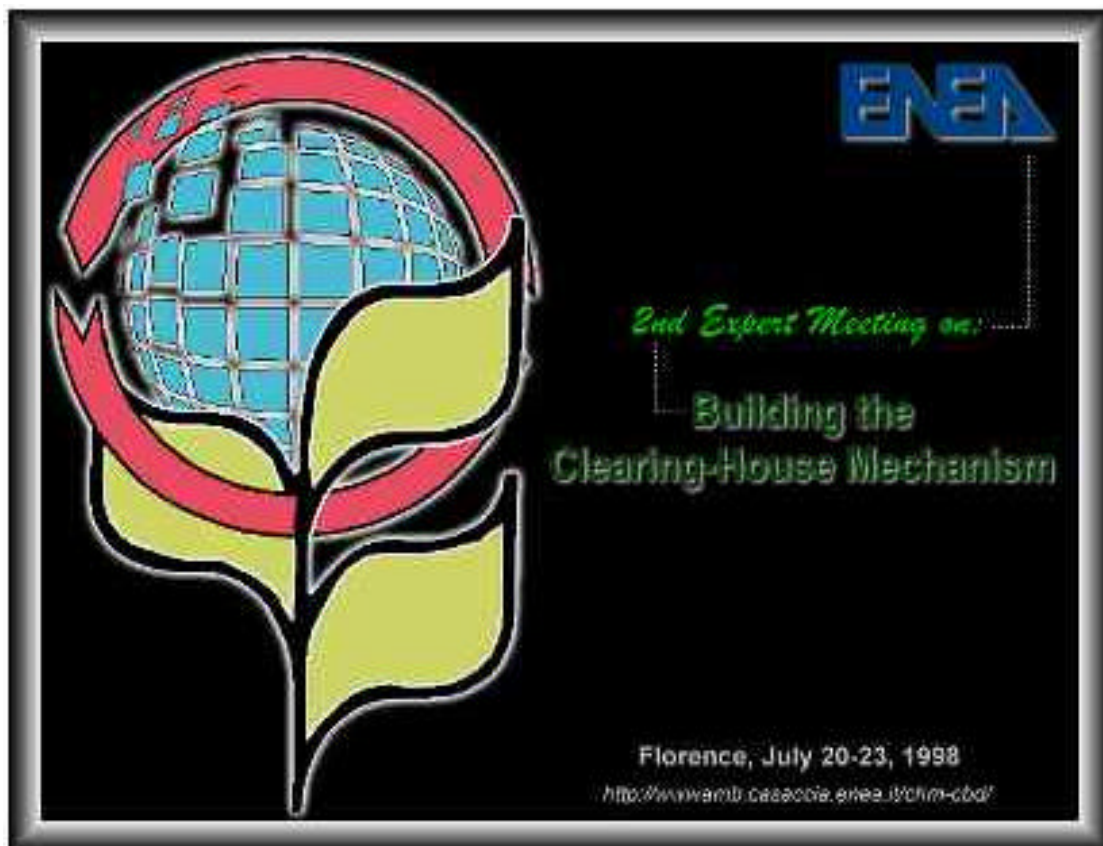
09:00-10:00	<p><i>Meeting location:</i> Palazzo dei Congressi - I° floor rooms 104 + 105, Piazza Adua 1, Florence Registration</p>
10:00-11:00	Introduction and Opening Remarks (F. Mauro)
11:00-12:30	<p>Papers and Lectures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diversity as the Fundamentals of Tourism (F. Di Castri)• Canada's Approach to Developing a National Node of the Clearing-House Mechanism (M. Cantwell)• A Framework for Co-ordinating Global Implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism (M. Cantwell)• The German Clearing House Mechanism: setting priorities in the development of the national CHM (U. Schellberg)• Italy: After the pilot Phase (L. Padovani, P. Carrabba)• Italy: Some Items for: a Long Term Strategic Plan and the Review of the CHM's Pilot Phase (F. Beone, C. Nicolai)• Building up a PAN-EUROPEAN Network on Genetic Indicators for Biodiversity ("PEN/GIB") (Y. Altukhov, M. Broggio, M. Buiatti, A. Koudryavtsev)• The ICGEB and the safe use of biotechnology (G. Ferraiolo)
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:30	<p>Introduction and Organization of Working Groups</p> <p>WG-1: Chairman Horst Freiberg (Germany) elements and criteria for the CHM's review and the CHM strategic plan</p> <p>WG-2: Chairman Braulio Ferreira de Sousa Dias (Brazil) national and international tactics and future perspectives for the CHM</p>
14:30-17:00	Working Groups

22.07.98

09:00-09:30	Summary of the First day (F. Mauro)
09:30-12:30	Working Groups
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-17:00	Working Groups
17:00-17:30	Presentation and Visualization of first results, comments

23.07.98

09:00-09:30	Summary of the Second day (F. Mauro)
09:30-12:30	Plenary discussion on conclusions and recommendations (H. Freiberg, B. Ferreira de Sousa Dias)
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:30	Final formulation of WG's Recommendations (F. Beone, H. Freiberg, B. Ferreira de Sousa Dias)
16:30-17:00	Closure of the workshop (F. Beone, J. Seyani)



INTRODUCTION

The 2nd Expert Meeting on "Building the Clearing-House Mechanism" has been organised in two Working Groups.

The first WG had the mandate to develop strategic elements for the CHM, such as a new and broader vision, guiding principles, goals, efficiency and effectiveness indicators for the independent review, guidance and cross-cutting themes as information entry points.

The second WG had the mandate to focus on the identification of specific initiatives needed by CHM community in terms of, governance, conceptual design, infrastructures and tools.

After 3 days of useful discussions the two WGs prepared two draft working reports related to their mandates.

These reports were discussed, amended and developed during the plenary session on the last day. The experts then suggested that the two documents be merged into one in order to prepare a unique series of recommendations that would be important for the development of the

Clearing-House Mechanism Strategic Plan. On the basis of these recommendations, the Italian FP will prepare a note for the Executive Secretary of the CBD identifying the specific actions which will be essential for the implementation of the CHM.



RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE WORKING GROUPS

The main recommendation of the Working Groups is that the Secretariat of the CBD begin the development of a Global Strategic Plan for the implementation of a CHM immediately.

The CHM strategic plan should include, inter alia, the following four main goals:

- I. National CHMs Development;***
- II. Coordination of CHM FPs Network and Connection with Related Networks;***
- III. Development of Appropriate Biodiversity Related Networks, Entities and Activities at the International Level;***
- IV. Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation System to Determine the Efficiency and the Effectiveness of the CHM Network.***

An efficiency and effectiveness indicator has been suggested for each goal.

I°) National CHMs Development

- A. Each FP should conduct, at national level, an inventory of national potential partners;
- B. Each FP should identify, at national level, institutional structures to facilitate national development;
- C. The CHM community should develop guidance and a “start-kit” to facilitate the establishment of national CHM Focal Points (FPs). This activity could be carried out with the contribution of the Informal Advisory Committee (*CHM “start-kit” based on FPs lessons learnt*);
- D. Identify and allocate appropriate resources (at national and international level);
- E. Each FP should integrate, at national level, the National CHM with other National Thematic FPs, networks, stakeholders and public and private Partners (the criteria and methodology for participation in the national CHM would be defined);

F. Each Party should encourage, at national level, the development of appropriate biodiversity related networks, activities and relationships with, stakeholders and public and private Partners (*ie. private sector, local and indigenous communities*);

G. At national level, each Party should, promote awareness and related educational efforts;

H. At national level, each Party should, eliminate barriers, investigate and develop methodologies for national interoperability.

Indicator: Rate of new active and structured FPs (number/year).

II°) Coordination of CHM FPs Network and Connection with Related Networks

A. Identify institutional structures to facilitate the CHM FPs network coordination (*inter alia CHM's IAC formal constitution*) and the useful connection with other related networks;

B. Conduct an inventory of international potential Partners (*define criteria and methodologies for the definition and participation of international thematic FPs and international stakeholders*);

C. Involve international potential Partners;

D. Identify and allocate appropriate resources, *inter alia*, the Secretariat of the CBD;

E. Promote and facilitate cooperation between FPs (*develop a needs analysis, call for FPs lessons learnt*);

F. Eliminate barriers, investigate and develop methodologies for the international interoperability (*ie. COP and SBSTTA documents disseminated in the six official languages; more use of other communication media*).

Indicator: Number of entities fully and efficiently connected.

[should be defined the criteria for fully and effectively connected]

III°) Development of Appropriate Biodiversity Related Networks, Entities and Activities at the International Level

- A. Identify gaps and needs in the existing networks that are useful for CBD's implementation;
- B. Identify institutional structures and bodies to encourage the development of new and existing networks, bodies and related activities;
- C. Identify and allocate appropriate resources;
- D. Modify existing and/or develop new networks and activities as necessary (*ie. synergies and relationships with other global Conventions and international stakeholders*).

Indicator: Rate of new or modified networks or entities developed (number/year)

IV°) Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation System to Determine the Efficiency and the Effectiveness of the CHM Network

- A. Identify the criteria and indicators to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of CHM Parties and Partners participation and the CHM efficiency and effectiveness for promoting and facilitating, inter alia, scientific, technological cooperation to achieve the objectives and articles of the CBD;
- B. Develop a periodic monitoring and reviewing system;
- C. Identify institutional structures to facilitate the monitoring evaluation;
- D. Identify and allocate appropriate resources;
- E. Communicate the results of the review(s) and recommendations to the appropriate institutional structures for necessary actions/reactions;

Indicator: Number of recommendations presented

ELEMENTS FOR NATIONAL CHM FPs GUIDANCE

The experts attending the meeting suggested the following main elements for the guidance of CHM FPs:

1) *Identification of the Country*

- Country profile (ie. Socio-economic situation, biogeographic profile, national trends and indicators, not only biodiversity);
- Inventory of national stakeholders;
- List of related national legislation;
- List of national partners involved in the building process;
- List of national contact points and roster of experts.

2) *Dissemination of National Biodiversity Information*

- Publication of National Strategies, Plans and reports;
- Links to other national information *sources (structured by CBD's articles and related cross-cutting themes^(*))*;
- Links to all national kinds of collections, bibliographic references, botanical gardens, genetic resources, etc.

3) *Dissemination of Biodiversity Information About Other Countries*

- Links to other national information sources regarding biodiversity information on other countries (*structured by CBD's articles and related cross-cutting themes*);

^(*) See list of Cross-cutting Themes proposed as entry points

CROSS CUTTING CBD-THEMES PROPOSED AS ENTRY POINTS

The experts suggested the following main cross cutting CBD-Themes as examples of possible entry points.

- Agriculture And Agrobiodiversity
- Alien Species
- Biosafety / Biotechnologies
- Biodiversity Legal Issues
- Capacity Building
- Criteria And Indicators
- Dryland Ecosystems
- Forest Biodiversity
- Funding And Training Opportunities
- Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Traditional Knowledge
- Inland Waters
- Marine And Coastal (Ecosystems And Biodiversity)
- Mountain Biodiversity
- Protected Areas
- Research Opportunities Presented By Developing Countries
- Species And Taxonomy
- Sustainable Tourism And Use
- SYNERGIES Of The Rio Agreements

.....More Detailed List From Thematic Working Groups

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MILE STONES OF THE ITALIAN CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM UNDER THE CONVENTION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

- Italy signed the Convention on 5 June 1992
- Italy ratified with National Law 124-14/02/94 (G.U.23/02/94) on February 1994.
- Italy designed the CHM FP on November 1996
- The first version of the Italian CHM Web site was on February 1997
- The Italian CHM established the National Working Group on September 1997
- The Italian CHM established his Steering Committee on October 1997
- Members of the National Working Group facilitated and promoted the consultative round-table with national private sector representatives on April 1998
- Italy was proposed as WEOG's member of the Informal Advisory Committee of the CHM on May 1998



PORTRAIT OF THE ITALIAN NATIONAL AGENCY FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ENEA)

ENEA is involved in several R&D activities on biodiversity and related fields and related with the CBD is still active in:

- conservation of plant genetic resources
- recognition and protection of biodiversity in specific ecosystems: mountain, fresh water, lagoons and brackish water, coastal and marine;
- production of biomolecules via biotechnology methods (and related biosafety problems)
- it has been under contract on the development of the "Bio-Italy" information system
- attention is given to the "ecosystem (ecosystem-based) approach" in the management and sustainable use of biodiversity (Lilongwe workshop).
- research and demonstration activities on the relation between biodiversity, traditional knowledge and sustainable tourism is carried out.

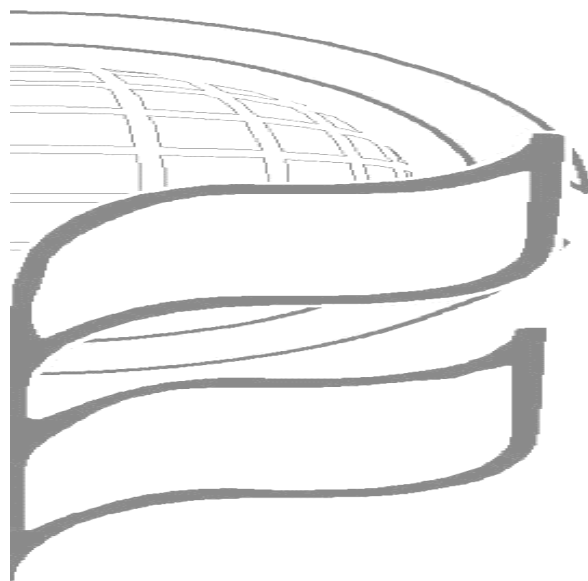
ENEA (and in particular the Environment Dpt.) has been giving scientific-technical support to the Italian Government in relation to the Convention of Biological Diversity:

- ad hoc Working Group of Technical and Legal Experts to prepare an international instrument became (1991);

- Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;
- the adoption at the Nairobi Conference (May 1992) and signature at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (June 1992) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), at all sessions of the Conferences of the Parties, of SBSTTA, the ad hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the Workshop on Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous and Local Communities;

A senior expert of ENEA has served as vice-president and chair of Working Group 2 of the SBSTTA-2.

A specific International Symposium on Mediterranean Biodiversity (Rome, October 1996) has been organised jointly with the Ministry of Environment.





Convention Secretariat

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