

Regional Capacity Development Workshop for Central Asia on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Mainstreaming of Biodiversity

9-13 March 2009, Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran

***Introduction to the
Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)***

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**Convention on Biological Diversity
Clearing-House Mechanism**

Clearing-House Mechanism

Presentation's Objectives

Contents

1. Background
2. Current Situation
3. Analysis
4. Proposed Services
5. Guidance
6. Final Comments

- **Share information about the CHM**
- **Proposals & guidance to strengthen it**
- **Listen to your views/comments**



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What is the Clearing-House Mechanism?

- It is the information exchange platform of the CBD
- It was created to promote scientific and technical cooperation (in accordance with Art. 18.3: Technical & Scientific Cooperation)
- It has evolved into a global network of websites consisting of:
 - National CHMs
 - Partner organizations
 - CBD website

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COP Decisions

- I/3 Establishment of the CHM
- II/3 Pilot Phase & CHM NFP (before Feb. 1996!)
- III/4 Technical Guidance, Funding & CHM-IAC
- IV/2 Technical Guidance, Funding & Request Review
- V/14 CHM Strategic Plan & Longer-Term Prog. of Work
- VI/18 Technical Guidance, Use & Request 2nd Review
- VII/23 Technical Guidance & CHM-IAC Procedures
- VIII/11 Updated Strategic Plan 2005-2010 and Programme of Work
- IX/30 scientific and Technical cooperation and the Clearing House Mechanism

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Decision VIII/11

- Decision VIII/11 → Updated Strategic Plan (2005-2010)

- Mission Statement

To contribute significantly to the implementation of the CBD and its programme areas and cross-cutting issues, especially the 2010 target, through the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation, among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders.

- 3 Strategic Goals

1. Facilitate technical and scientific cooperation
2. Promote information exchange
3. Develop a network of partners

- 12 Strategic Objectives

- Programme of Work (more than 50 activities)

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Decision IX/30

- To ES → Core Central CHM services
 - Focus on information services geared towards the implementation of the Convention
 - Strengthen the Secretariat's capacity (CHM, IT, Web)
 - Continue the enhancement of the website (+ translation)
 - Provide guidance and support to national CHM
- To Parties → Strong & sustainable CHM
 - Incorporate national CHM in NBSAP
 - Integrate national CHM into existing networks
 - Establish inter-institutional coordination structure
 - Mobilize and allocate resources for sustained operations
 - Identify, collect, manage & disseminate national information
- To Partners → Exchange information
- To Donors → Provide support to Parties & ES

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2010 Biodiversity Target

To achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth

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2010 Biodiversity Target - Objectives

1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes
2. Promote the conservation of species diversity
3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity
4. Promote sustainable use and consumption
5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced
6. Control threats from invasive alien species
7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution
8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods
9. Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities
10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources
11. Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

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Current Situation

- **Status of National CHM**
 - 190 Parties
 - 158 CHM NFP → 32 missing CHM NFP
 - 85 CHM web sites but 7 CHM NFP with no e-mail

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Current Situation

Asia-Pacific and Middle-East

Existing	Missing
54 Parties	Brunei & Iraq
41 CHM NFP	13 Parties without CHM NFP
38 CHM e-mail	3 CHM NFP without e-mail
12 CHM web sites	26 CHM NFP without web sites

Remarks

- Active CHMs: China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Philippines, Rep. of Korea, ...
- Asia-Pacific has a high potential and Capacity is available

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Current Situation

Central and Eastern Europe

Existing	Missing
23 Parties	
18 CHM NFP	5 Parties without CHM NFP
18 CHM e-mail	
13 CHM web sites	3 CHM NFP without web sites

Remarks

- Active region
- Resources are limited
- More progress is expected

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Current Situation

Africa

Existing		Missing
52	Parties	Somalia
46	CHM NFP	6 Parties without CHM NFP
42	CHM e-mail	4 CHM NFP without e-mail
21	CHM web sites	15 CHM NFP without web sites

Remarks

- Most of national CHM websites hosted by Belgian CHM www.biodiv.be
- Countries need guidance and support

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Current Situation

Latin America & the Caribbean

Existing	Missing
33 Parties	
28 CHM NFP	5 Parties without CHM NFP
27 CHM e-mail	1 CHM NFP without e-mail
16 CHM web sites	12 CHM NFP without web sites

Remarks

- Good CHM development
- More CHM web sites should be developed

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Current Situation

Western European and Others

Existing	Missing
28 Parties	Andorra, Holy See & USA
24 CHM NFP + 1 (USA)	4 Parties without CHM NFP
24 CHM e-mail + 1	
21 CHM web sites + 1	3 CHM NFP without web sites

Remarks

- Resources and capacity are available
- European Community CHM is very active
<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int>
- Germany has useful information on technology transfer
<http://www.biodiv-chm.de>

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How can the CHM contribute to the 2010 target ?

- How to strengthen the effectiveness of the CHM?
- We are in 2009, no longer in 1992
- Which services to offer?
- Which activities or initiatives at the national and/or international level?

Proposals in pre-COP documents:

- UNEP/CBD/COP/9/23
 - Proposals from Executive Secretary
- UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/21
 - Report of a brainstorming workshop on the Belgian CHM Partnership (Brussels, 2-3 May 2007)
 - Recommendations from Parties involved
- *Decision IX/30*

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The CHM in a Global Context

- **Global Context**
 - Abundance of biodiversity cooperation initiatives, information sources & networks
 - How to fill the right gaps by benefitting from existing initiatives and avoiding duplication?
 - Web 2.0 with many on-line services
- **Nature of the CHM**
 - A clearing-house is an institution that collects and disseminate information (2-way exchange)
 - Only interested in information in the public domain
 - Facilitate access to existing sources and services
- **Conservation Commons**

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Challenges and Gaps

- Analysis stemming from:
 - CHM reviews (1996-1998 & 2002-2003)
 - Synthesis of NR3
 - CHM-IAC
 - Feedback & experience
- Challenges and Gaps
 - Limited resources
 - Lack of understanding of the CHM
 - Underestimation of efforts and resources
 - Lack of focus, consistency
 - Lack of standardis for BD related data exchange
 - Information not always geared towards facilitating implementation
 - Lack of feedback from implementation
 - Limited access (vs. Free and Open Access)

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Proposed Services

- Opportunity for CHM to play a stronger role in implementation
- Position the CHM as a provider of services to assist parties in the implementation of the Convention

Parties' Needs	Services
Need to access relevant reference information	Knowledge Base
Need to collaborate to share ideas on implementation	Collaboration Tools
Need to plan and report on implementation activities	Planning and Reporting Facility
Need to reach out to many audiences, and disseminate national information	National Information and Websites

- Develop central CHM services
- Develop National CHM services

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Knowledge Base

- **Purpose**
 - Wealth of reference information (guidelines, case-studies, reports, etc) from SCBD, Parties & partners
 - But information is scattered, and not always easily accessible
 - Part of Knowledge Management initiative to organize and classify information, and facilitate access to it
- **Implementation**
 - Can start with SCBD information, and grow incrementally
 - Importance of collaboration/synergies with partners (MEAs, UNEP, UN Agencies, other partners)

Collaboration Tools

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- **Purpose**
 - Provide tools that enable Parties to collaborate on-line (share ideas, seek advice, brainstorm on implementation)
 - Various popular on-line tools (Blog, discussion forums, wikis)
 - Complement other on-line services
- **Implementation**
 - Technical building blocks exists
 - Some tools requires moderation
 - Users (NFP) should jointly agree on the use of the tool

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Planning & Reporting

- **Purpose**
 - Decision VIII/10 on National Reporting
 - Collect more feedback on national initiatives
- **Implementation**
 - Central on-line registry for reporting initiatives related to the implementation of the Convention
 - Submission by Parties (controlled by CHM NFP)
 - Submission according to common format capturing essential information.
 - SCBD in charge of providing metadata information (e.g. connecting to articles & decisions)

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National Information & Websites

- Purpose
 - Enhance national information
 - Strengthen the network of national CHM
 - Provide network-wide information services (search engine, news, events)
- Implementation
 - Establish a CHM network portal
 - Provide guidance & support to the development of national CHM (*next section*)

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CHM Toolkit

- **Background**
 - To assist Parties in developing National CHM
 - Last version from 2004
 - New CBD website → CD-ROM with updated links
 - Technology & approaches have evolved
 - Requires re-thinking to be effective today
- **6 Modules**
 1. Establishing CHM NFP
 2. Developing a national CHM website
 3. Technical support and other toolkits
 4. Partnering and funding opportunities
 5. Common formats and controlled vocabularies
 6. Metadata: definition & importance

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National CHM - General Guidance

- **Promote and plan the CHM at national level**
 - Convince national decision-makers that CHM is useful
 - Integrate the CHM in the National Biodiversity Strategy
 - Plan with sustainability in mind / Mobilize resources
 - Establish inter-institutional coordination mechanism
 - Identify, collect, manage & disseminate national information
- **Strengthen Cooperation & Networking**
 - Joint collaborative effort (SCBD + Parties + Others)
 - Encourage sharing of resources & experiences
 - South-South cooperation / Regional CHM nodes
 - Re-focus on technical and scientific cooperation
- **Adapt capacity-building to needs of the Parties**
 - No one-size-fit-all solution
 - Various needs → Various responses

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Capacity-Building Approach

Adapt capacity-building to needs

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Level	Situation	Action
0	No CHM NFP	Convince Party to nominate CHM NFP
1	CHM NFP not equipped	Find solutions to provide basic infrastructure & communication facilities
2	No CHM web site	Provide tools & support to establish web presence
3	National CHM web presence	Enhance web content to disseminate information in line with the 2010 target
4	Fully-developed National CHM web site	Encourage sharing of expertise to support other national CHM
5	Advanced CHM	Establish interoperability mechanisms with biodiversity networks

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Level 0 - CBD NFP vs. CHM NFP

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CBD NFP

CHM NFP

- | CBD NFP | CHM NFP |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Role• Government representative• Diplomat skills• Decision-making process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Negotiation- National Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical Role• Project Manager• Entrepreneur skills• Implementation process<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scientific & tech. cooperation- Information Management (gathering, disseminating)- Webmaster |
- Both roles are important & time-consuming
→ Better if not the same person
 - A CBD+CHM NFP could delegate to 1 or more assistant(s)

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- **Expected outcomes of CHM Services**
 - Improved effectiveness by focusing on services with highest impact on implementation
 - More shared knowledge
 - More feedback from implementation
 - Enhanced national implementation

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- **Key points for developing a National CHM**
 - **No 1-size-fit-all approach, but similar situations**
 - **Important role of the National CHM**
 - **Integrate the CHM in the national strategy**
 - **Always difficult to obtain financial resources**
 - **Building partnerships can be a solution**

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**Clearing-House
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- **Success will depend on**
 - Support from SCBD, Parties & donors
 - Involvement of key partners
- **SCBD will do what it can to strengthen the National CHM**
 - by providing technical assistance & guidance
 - by promoting the CHM network
- **Questions, comments or suggestions?**

Thanks for your attention

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