



THE BCH III PROJECT

The BCH III Project

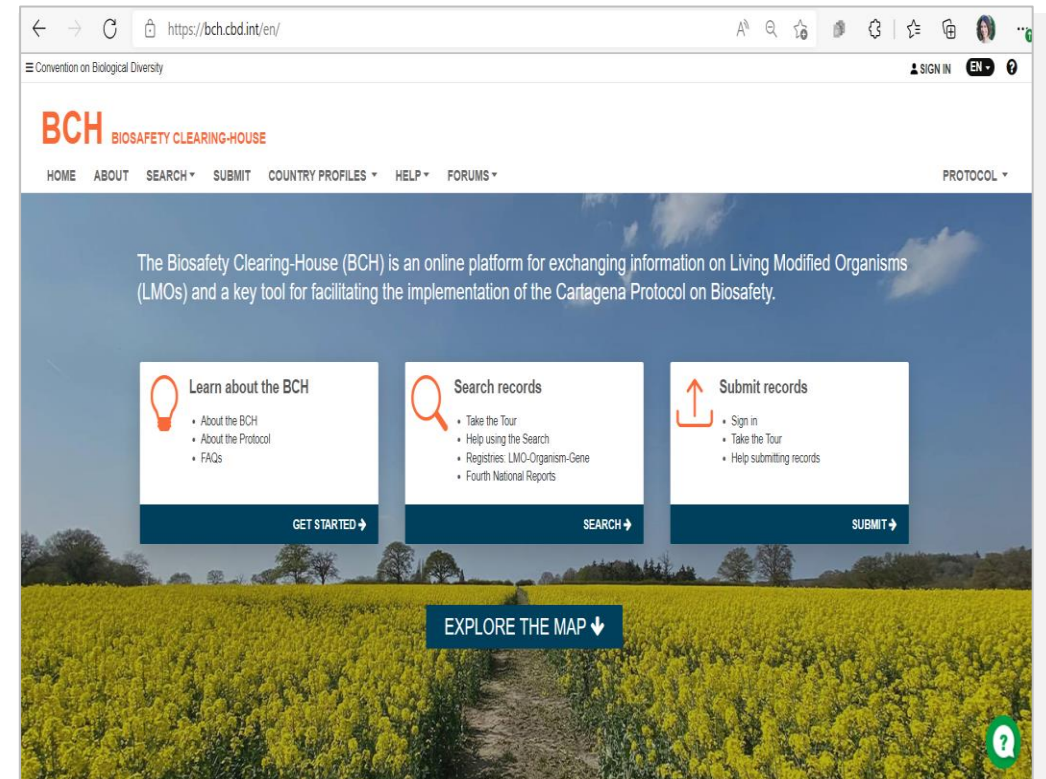
Prof Ossama AbdelKawy

2023

1. INTRODUCTION

THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE

- Is a cornerstone of the Cartagena Protocol biosafety regime and is the primary mechanism through which information required by the protocol is made available.
- It provides a searchable database of a broad range of information about LMOs and how they are regulated, produced, used, and grown within the jurisdiction of Parties and non-Parties.



1. INTRODUCTION

THE BCH GLOBAL PROJECTS

- Despite the BCH availability, Parties have encountered many challenges in fulfilling their information-sharing obligations and requested capacity building and funding support.
- Hence, several projects funded by the GEF were designed to assist Parties in having a functional BCH system.



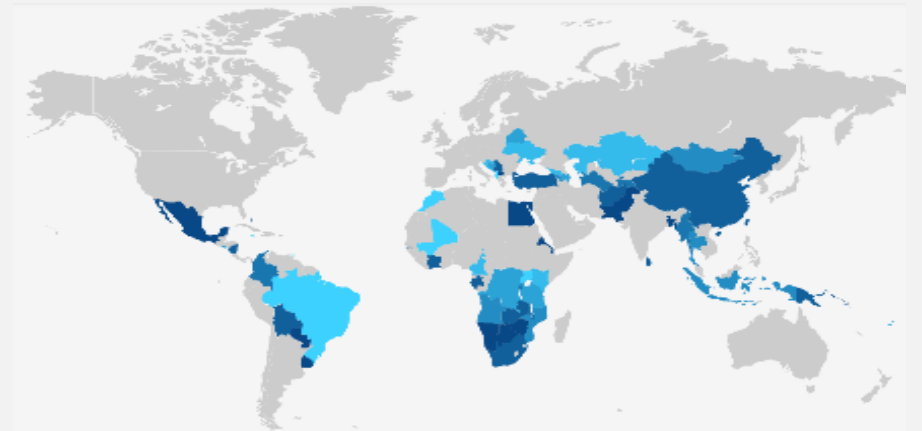
2. THE BCH III PROJECT (2016-2023)

GOAL

- The BCH-III project aims to consolidate previous BCH projects' achievements and build the BCH system's sustainability at national, regional, and global levels.
- Extend the BCH-II project to the last 76 eligible countries.

“ Project for Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House ”

(COP/MOP-5, Decision BS-V/5)

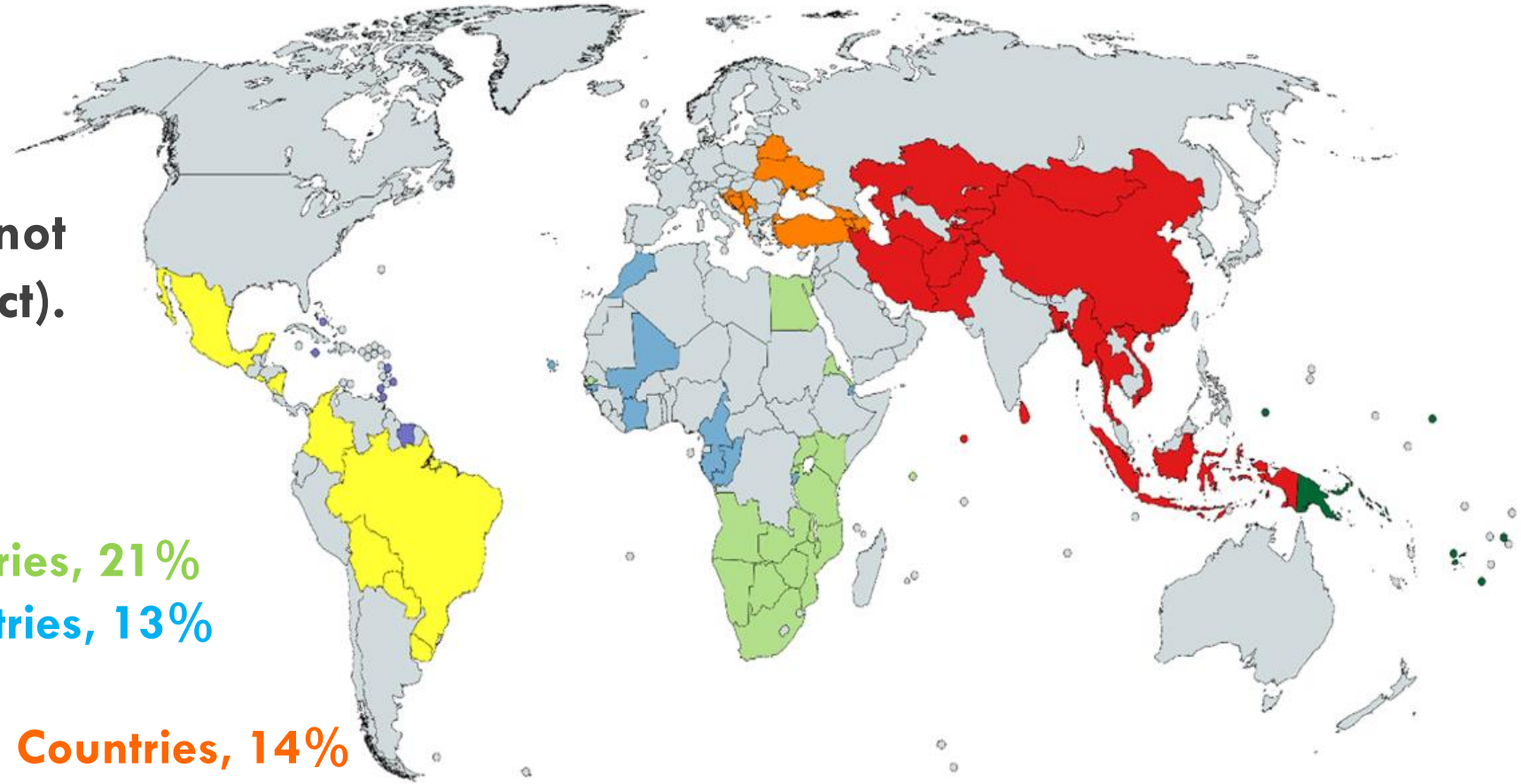


2. THE BCH III PROJECT (2016-2023)

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

The Remaining 76 Parties (not covered by the BCH II Project).

- Africa (Anglophone): 16 countries, 21%**
- Africa (Francophone): 10 countries, 13%**
- Asia: 14 countries, 17%**
- Central and Eastern Europe: 12 Countries, 14%**
- Pacific: 9 countries, 11.5%**
- Latin America: 8 countries, 10.5%**
- Caribbean: 7 countries, 9%**



2. THE BCH III PROJECT (2016-2023)

OBJECTIVES

- To pursue its goal, two main objectives were identified:

1. Effective participation in the BCH

Participating countries to effectively use the BCH Central Portal and set up Portals interoperative with it, including sub-regional or regional portals.

2. Stakeholders' inclusiveness

Key stakeholders will be identified and involved in decision-making and interpretation.



2. THE BCH III PROJECT (2016-2023)

COMPONENTS

01

National BCH
Institutional
Capacity
Development
including Effective
and Inclusive
Participation,
Production and
Sharing of
Information

02

National
Sustainability of
Biosafety
Clearing House
Mechanisms
through the
Establishment of
Effective
National
Procedures

03

Regional
Networking,
Experience and
Knowledge
Sharing

04

Global
Sustainability of
BCH and other
Multilateral
Environmental
Agreements'
sharing
Mechanisms
through the
Regional Advisors
System

Revised logical framework following the 2019 midterm review

2. THE BCH III PROJECT (2016-2023)

THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE PROJECT COUNTRIES

- I. National Training Workshops;
- II. Support to integrate networks of collaboration through Regional and Global Workshops; and
- III. The Project Virtual Learning Environment
- IV. Training and Education materials, including webinars
- V. Regional Advisors' Assistance



3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Finalization

Preparation of **sustainability plan**, expenses report, and project closure document

STEP
05

3rd National workshop

Aims to show how the information available in the BCH can best be utilized and introduce BCH training materials, and demonstrate how the BCH know-how can be used to achieve BCH capacity-building sustainability beyond the project's duration.

STEP
04

2nd National workshop

Aims to Enhance the competence of key Government representatives with responsibilities for implementing the Biosafety Protocol, particularly those that will update and use the BCH to fulfill the national obligations outlined in the protocol.

STEP
03

1st National Workshop

aims to set up procedures and mechanisms needed to achieve sustainability of effective participation in the BCH and establish national procedures and operational linkages to gather information to be placed on the BCH in line with national biosafety policy and biosafety framework

STEP
02

SSFA

Eligible countries sign the Small Scale funding Agreement with UNEP

STEP
01



3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES INTENDED OBJECTIVES

- Improve national competence in using the BCH for submitting data and finding information to support decision-making;
- Identify and establish national procedures and operational linkages to gather information to be put on BCH in line with National Biosafety Frameworks implementation and BCH sustainability and training plan; and
- Identify Potential centers of excellence that could support the BCH training and capacity-building activities after the end of the BCH III project.



Kenya and Gabon's 2nd
workshops (2018, 2022)

3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

COUNTRIES THAT SIGNED THE SSFA PER REGION

1. Anglophone Africa (15): Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe,
2. Francophone Africa (9): Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali,
3. Caribbean (5): Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Suriname,
4. Pacific (1): Solomon Islands;
5. Central and Eastern Europe (5): Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan,
6. Asia (8): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye,
7. Latin American Region (2): Nicaragua, Uruguay.

So far, a total of 43 countries

- Egypt and Trinidad and Tobago recently expressed interest in joining the Project.

3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES INTENDED OBJECTIVES

- Develop Regional BCH Strategies to help each country to enhance the availability and exchange of relevant information at the BCH according to their current level of BCH implementation, promoting increased compliance with national and international requirements;
- Build an operational intraregional network of cooperation among the participating countries to fulfill Art. 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and related Meeting of Parties decisions on the BCH; and
- Share experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in promoting Public Awareness, Education, and Participation per operational objective 2.5 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Strategic Plan and the work program on Public Awareness, Education, and Participation.
- Regional Activities include all the eligible 76 project countries and are not limited to those that signed SSFA with UNEP

3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

CONDUCTED REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- As of date, seven regional workshops have been held, namely:
 1. Anglophone and Francophone Africa (held simultaneously, Cairo, Egypt, 16-17 May 2017, 26 participants from 26 countries);
 2. Caribbean (Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Tobago, 3-6 Oct. 2017, 8 participants from 7 countries);
 3. Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 20-23 Jun. 2017, 8 participants from 8 countries);
 4. Central and Eastern Europe (Belgrade, Serbia, 21-24 Nov. 2017, 11 participants from 10 countries);
 5. Asia (Daejeon, South Korea, 31 Oct. – 3 Nov. 2017, 17 participants from 17 countries) and
 6. Latin American Region (Montevideo, Uruguay, 10-13 Apr. 2018, 10 participants from 8 countries).



3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

- As of date, three face to face global pre-COP-MOP workshops were held, namely:

1. Cancun, Mexico Workshop, Dec. 2016, 32 participants;
2. Sharm Elsheikh, Egypt Workshop, Nov. 2018, 33 participants;
3. Montreal Workshop, Dec. 2022, 57 participants.

COP13-COPMOP8-COPMOP2
CANCUN, MEXICO 2016



MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**UN BIODIVERSITY
CONFERENCE**

Investing in biodiversity for people and planet



COP 14 - CP/MOP9 - NP/MOP3
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018



3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

WEBINARS

- These are online conferences conducted in 5 UN languages to provide training on specific topics relevant to the BCH, the Cartagena Protocol.
- They are advertised in various fora, including the BCH website and participants from all over attend and actively participate in the discussions.
- So far, 17 well-attended webinars have been conducted, recorded, and made available online by the project.

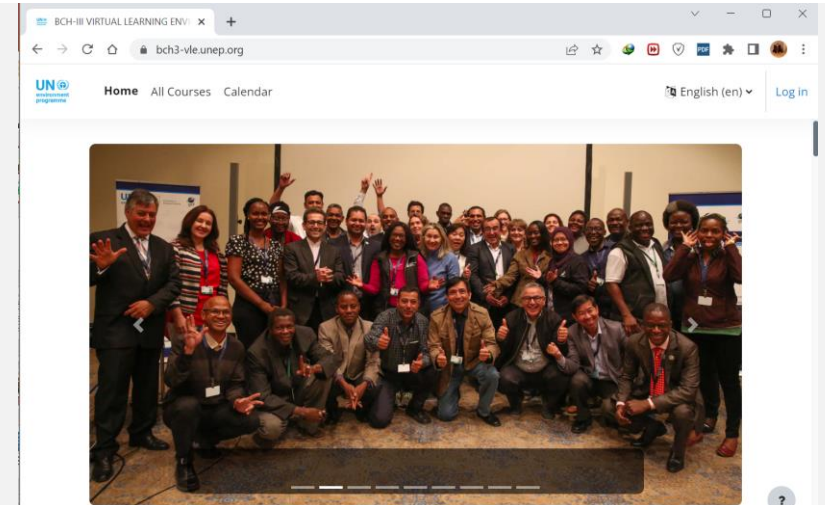


3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

THE PROJECT VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Is a tool to make all the BCH learning objects accessible to different target audiences.
- It includes pre-developed training materials such as manuals, interactive training software, case studies, and curricula for different stakeholders.
- Training materials are organized as virtual courses over which customized national and regional training solutions can be built.
- It is hosted on UNEP servers, regularly updated and maintained, and will be accessible after the project completion.

<https://bch3-vle.unep.org/>



127

Countries using the virtual learning
Environment

22727

Active users accessing our amazing
resources

94

Courses made for you that you can
trust!

3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

THE REGIONAL ADVISORS NETWORK

- The Advisors are the legacy of the first Global BCH Project, which identified experts with solid Professional Backgrounds in genetics, biological and environmental sciences, international law, and information technology and trained them to become regional resource persons on biosafety.
- These experts are highly culturally sensitive as a multi-lingual, multi-cultural corps of trainers and consultants. They are welcomed by the countries and can advise and work with a wide range of stakeholders from different backgrounds, often in the local language.
- They understand the intricacies of inter-governmental coordination and public consultation processes.



3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

THE REGIONAL ADVISORS NETWORK

As a part of the BCH III Project, they

- Identify and assess countries' needs for national capacity building, analyze strengths and weaknesses of the Cartagena Protocol management on the national level, and recommend intervention in line with international best practices,
- Take lead responsibility for design and operation in capacity building programs and assist national staff in fully understanding national obligations to the Cartagena Protocol,
- Develop and fine-tune through adaption to specific capacity-building requirements, training materials, user manuals, virtual courses, and e-forums in all UN languages,
- Design, conduct, and carry out national and regional training workshops, and
- Assist in evaluating National strategies to ensure continuity and sustainability of fulfillment of obligations related to the Cartagena Protocol with particular emphasis on article 20.



3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

THE REGIONAL ADVISORS NETWORK

- The Network continues to be part of UNEP's dedicated core of biosafety support to countries delivering capacity-building interventions. UNEP continues to update the skill sets and knowledge of the support network.
 - Training of Trainers (ToT 1), 4-8 May 2015, Canada, at the CBD Secretariat Place.
 - ToT 2, 3-17 June 2022, in Dubai, UAE.
- Under the BCH III Project, the training of Regional Advisors extended beyond the CBD and its Protocols to cover other **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)** as well.

“ The Regional Advisors Network as a model mechanism can be used effectively and efficiently in providing expert assistance to countries in fulfilling their obligations under MEAs ”

3. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

TRAINING MATERIALS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Global BCH Outlook: Compiled report (2018)
- Needs Assessment Survey Report (2020)
- Brochure on Regional Advisors Network
- BCH III project in Brief Brochure
- 32 Case studies for using the BCH to search for information and submit data were updated to be aligned with the new version of the BCH
- 3 Case studies were produced.
- 22 training videos covering various relevant topics were produced.



4. CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

COP AND COP-MOP DECISIONS

- Recently, several CBD-COP15 and CPB COP-MOP10 decisions touched on the BCH.

(Decision COP-15/30.9)

“Invites the Global Environment Facility:

...

(d) To continue to assist eligible Parties in undertaking activities in the following areas: development and implementation of legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol; risk assessment and risk management; detection and identification of living modified organisms; public awareness, education and participation; socioeconomic considerations; liability and redress; national reporting; information sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House; and knowledge and technology transfer; and the implementation of compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;”

4. CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

COP AND COP-MOP DECISIONS

- Recently, several CBD-COP15 and CPB COP-MOP10 decisions touched on the BCH.

(Decision CP-10/5)

“Welcomes the successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme - Global Environment Facility “Project for Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House” (BCH III Project) and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to develop further capacity-building projects related to the Biosafety Clearing-House”

4. CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

COP AND COP-MOP DECISIONS

- Recently, several CBD-COP15 and CPB COP-MOP10 decisions touched on the BCH.

(Decision CP-10/8)

*“ Also requests the Executive Secretary: (a) To **develop capacity-building materials** based on priorities identified by Parties and perform trainings on the new functionalities of the Biosafety Clearing-House including as a contribution to the key activities highlighted in the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted in decision CP-10/4 ”*

Thank you !

For more information, please email

Ossama.elkawy@un.org

elkawyo@gmail.com

+201111561456

