



# A User's Guide to the Central Portal of the Biosafety Clearing House

## Searching the Biosafety Clearing-House

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Version 6.0



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Please note that this module has been prepared to assist in understanding the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It is not intended to provide legal interpretation of the Protocol or decisions made by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Please refer to the original text of the Protocol and COP-MOP decisions for any further information.

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# 1. Introduction to the Manual

*What you will learn in this manual:*

In this module you will learn:

- How to navigate through the Central Portal of the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH);
- Understand the main functionalities of the BCH;
- Know what information can be found on the BCH;
- Search the databases available on the BCH.

*Context:*

The UNEP-GEF Project for Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH-I) prepared a training package that aimed to provide a practical "how-to" guide for countries to assist them in learning, understanding, using, and setting up national access to the BCH. The training package was later updated within the UNEP-GEF Project for Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the BCH (BCH-III). The package was designed to be flexible and tailored to meet the diverse needs of different countries, allowing them to select the tools and ideas most useful to their situation, needs, and priorities. The training package is divided into several manuals, each addressing one Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) element.

*Audience:*

This manual is designed to guide users of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). It is developed for a non-technical audience with little or no knowledge of the Cartagena Protocol and the BCH. As such, this manual will provide users with an opportunity to understand the requirements of the Biosafety Clearing-House in relation to searching for information.

*Purpose:*

This manual will help users learn to navigate on the BCH, and describes the main functions and information that can be found on the BCH Central Portal, including:

1. The different categories of information found on the BCH;
2. The structure of information available on the BCH.

Note that while you are connected to the BCH (<http://bch.cbd.int/>) you can read the sections of this manual and browse its various components.

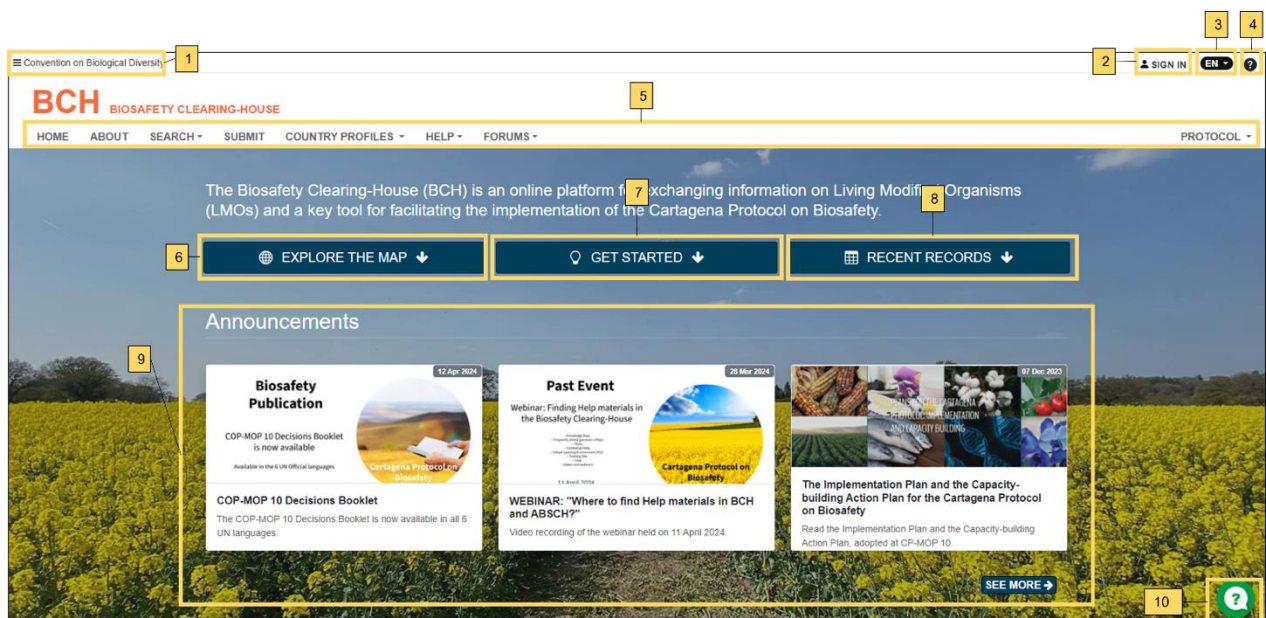
## 2. Home Page

URL: <https://bch.cbd.int/>

The following sections will provide help and guidance on the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

The Home Page of the BCH is a welcome page that provides a gateway to each BCH element and all data stored in the BCH.


This Home Page of the BCH has a Welcome area that briefly introduces the BCH, provides a link to the main sections of this website, such as the navigation bar, and provides information on highlights, such as the latest news about the BCH and biosafety in general, the most recent additions to the databases, as well as the latest updates of published records.



*Figure 1. BCH Home Page*

The main components of the BCH Biosafety Clearing-House Home page are (see numbers in Figure 1):

1. The link to the **Convention on Biological Diversity** - CBD allows you to access all CBD information including its protocols and programmes;
2. The **Sign In** link is a link for registered users and new users who need to create an account. Any user can search information in the BCH at <http://bch.cbd.int/> without a registered CBD user account. However, a CBD user account is necessary if the user:
  - Needs to submit information to the BCH;
  - Would like to receive notifications by email; or

- Would like to participate in the online forums and/or other interactive events organized through the BCH.
3. The **language link** allows users to access the BCH in one of the six official languages of the United Nations;
  4. The **question mark link** which provides a menu where you can find relevant information about the Biosafety Clearing-House;
  5. The **Navigation bar** which provides links to the main components of the Biosafety Clearing-House;
  6. The **Explore the map** which take you to the map where you can find all the information about the national records of the countries that are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, as well as those of the Non-Parties.
  7. **Get Started:** By clicking here, you will access the **Learn** (information about the Cartagena Protocol and BCH), **Search** (search for information on the BCH) and **Submit** (to register information on the BCH) sections.
  8. **Recent Records:** Click here to access the national and reference records recently published on the BCH.
  9. **Announcements:** In this section you can find recent news related to the Cartagena Protocol and its activities. In addition, by clicking on **SEE MORE** at the bottom right of this section you will access information about activities and events held in the last months.
  10. : By clicking here, you will access a chat box where you can ask questions or request information about the BCH.

## 2.1. Convention on Biological Diversity

In the upper left part of the screen, you will find an icon of the **Convention on Biological Diversity**. If you click on it, a bar will be displayed on the right with tags that will direct you to the Convention, its Protocols and other topics (Figure 2).

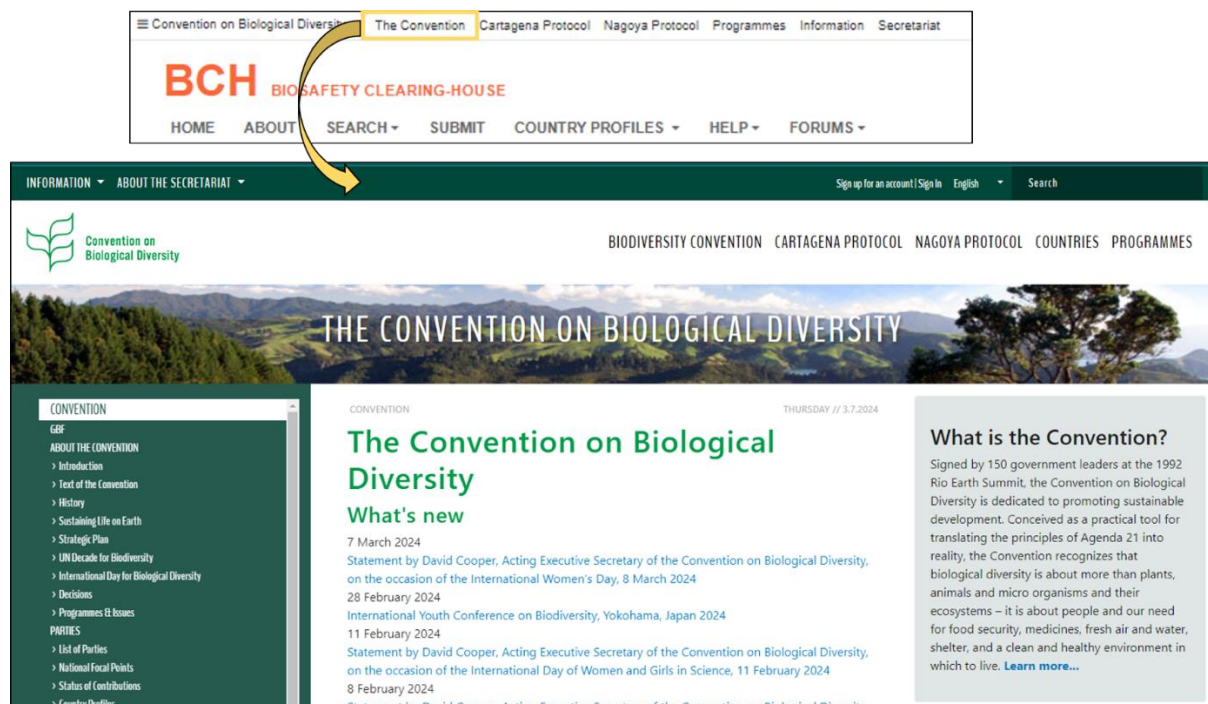




*Figure 2. Convention on Biological Diversity*

### 2.1.1. The Convention

By clicking on this tag, you will access the Home Page of the Convention on Biological Diversity and find all information related to this international treaty (Figure 3).



*Figure 3. Link to Convention of Biological Diversity Page*

### 2.1.2. Cartagena Protocol

By clicking on this tag, you will access the Cartagena Protocol website and find all information related to this international agreement (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Link to Cartagena Protocol Page

### 2.1.3. Nagoya Protocol

By clicking on this tag, you will access the Nagoya Protocol website and find all information related to this international agreement (Figure 5).

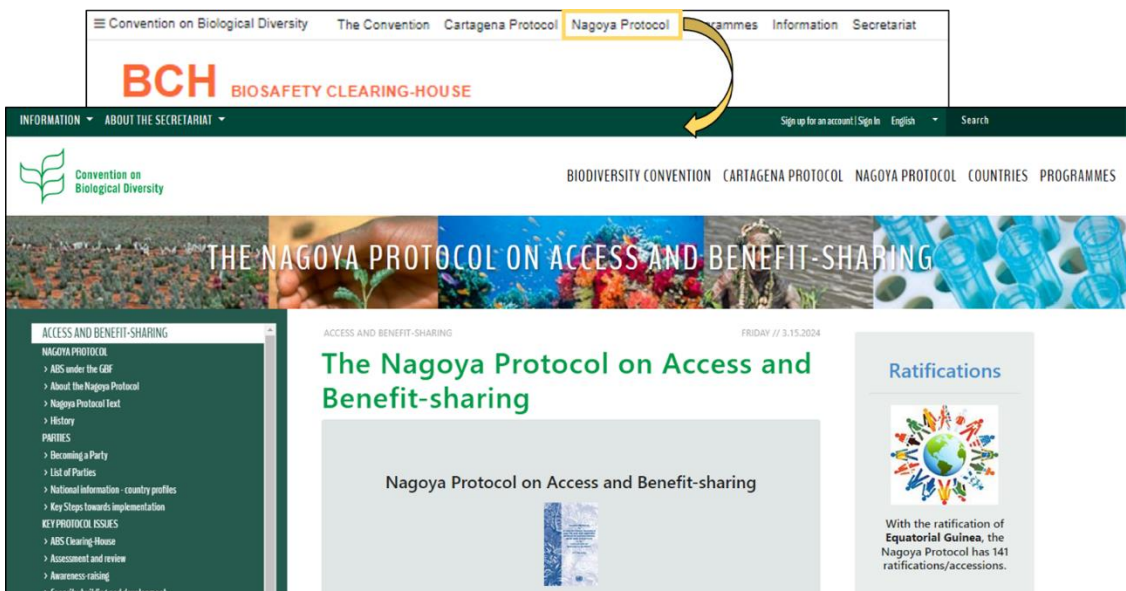


Figure 5. Link to Nagoya Protocol Page

#### 2.1.4. Programmes

By clicking on this tag, you will be directed to the Thematic Programmes and Cross-Cutting Issues of the Convention of Biological Diversity which have been established by the Conference of the Parties (COP).

There are seven thematic Programmes Of Work which correspond to some of the major biomes on the planet. The COP has also initiated work on key matters of relevance to all thematic areas. These cross-cutting issues correspond to the issues addressed in the Convention's substantive provisions in Articles 6-20, and provide bridges and links between the thematic programmes (Figure 6).

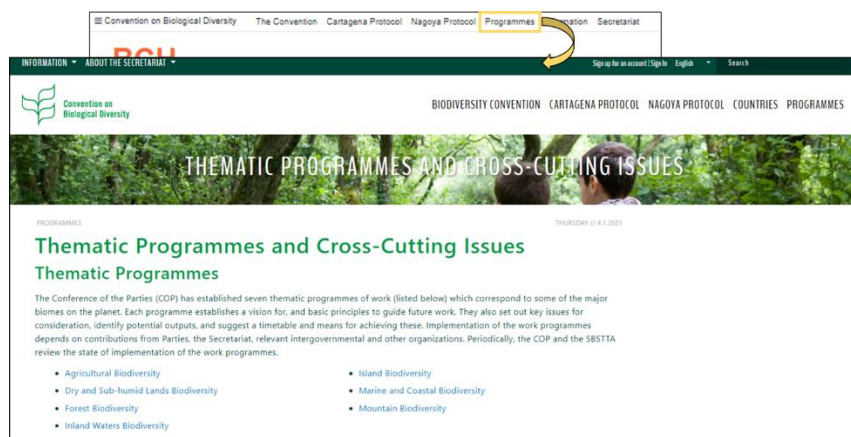


Figure 6. Link to the Programmes of the Convention of Biological Diversity

#### 2.1.5. Information

By clicking on this tag, you will access the Information Centre of the Convention on Biological Diversity where you will find information about several of the activities and initiatives of the Convention as well as information on Major Meetings, Major References, and National Information of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols (Figure 7).

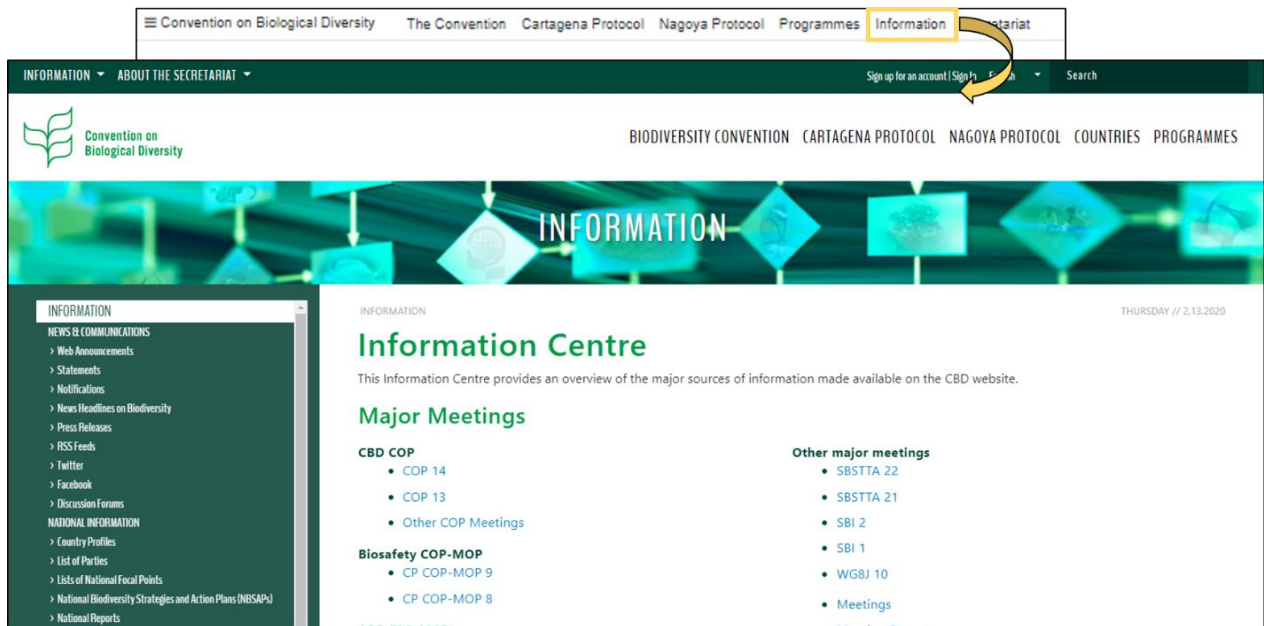


Figure 7. Link to Information Centre of the Convention of Biological Diversity

### 2.1.6. Secretariat

By clicking on this tag, you will find information about the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. You can find out how the Secretariat is structured, its staff, initiatives, documents, and employment and business opportunities (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Link to the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity

## 2.2. Sign-in

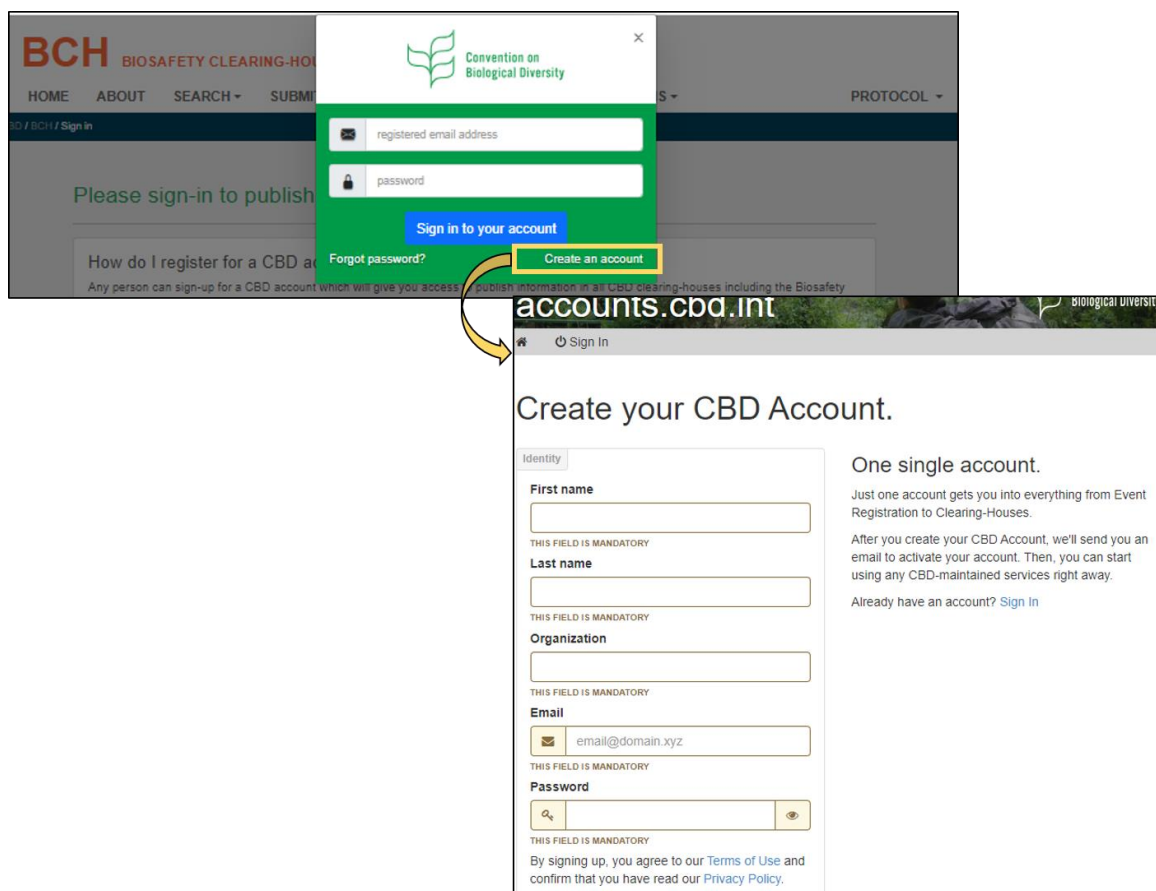
Clicking on the “**Sign-In**” tag takes you to the **Sign-In** box of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Figure 9). Any person can have a CBD account which will give her/him access to submit information in all CBD clearing-houses, including the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), the ABS Clearing-House (ABS CH) and the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) under the Convention.

You can register for a CBD account using a valid e-mail address at: <https://accounts.cbd.int/signup>. Make sure you enter all the information required as instructed on the form and click “**Submit**”. You will automatically receive an e-mail with a link to confirm your account.

You can access all clearing-houses and the CBD website with the same CBD account.

You can also create an account directly through the Biosafety Clearing-House website:

1. Click on **SIGN IN** on the top-right corner.
2. In the box that opens, click on “**Create an account**”.
3. Enter all the information required on the form and click “**Submit**”. You will automatically receive an e-mail with a link to confirm your account.

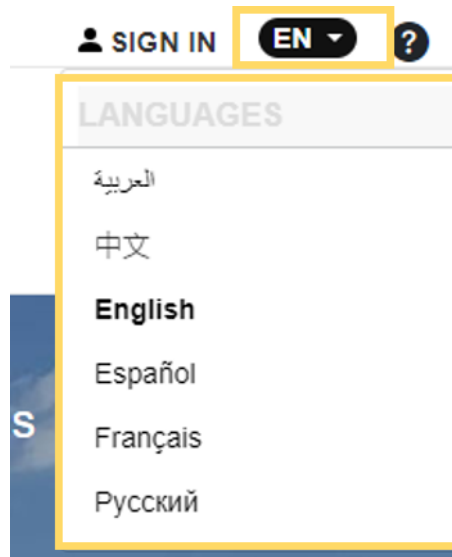


*Figure 9. Create an account.*

### 2.3. Languages

The BCH can be accessed in any of the six official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Click on the ‘**language**’ icon on the top right corner of the website and then select your preferred language from the drop-down list (Figure 10).

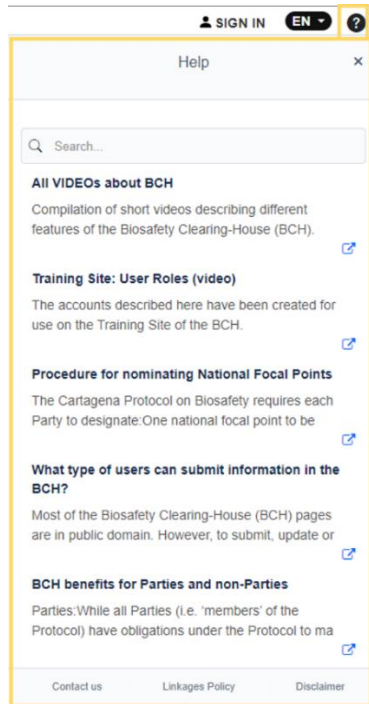
Furthermore, as you submit information in the “**Submission form**”, it is also possible to introduce information in one of the six official UN languages. Select a language(s) from the “**language**” drop-down list located at the top left of the “**Submission form**”. For each submission field, a text box will appear in the language(s) selected.



*Figure 10. Languages*

## 2.4. Question mark Help

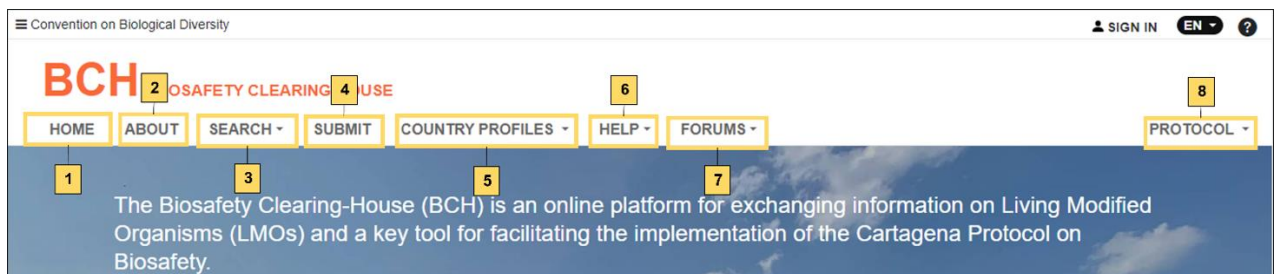
The question mark help at the top right of the page, near the language icon, is a quick “help” for all components of the BCH. When you click on it a drop-down Menu will display relevant information about the Biosafety Clearing-House, such as “All videos about BCH”, “Training Site: User Roles (video)”, and “Procedure for nominating National Focal Points”, among others, that will help you to better understand some concepts, procedures, or activities related to the BCH functioning and the information that can be found on it (Figure 11).



*Figure 11. Help*

### 3. Navigation Bar

The **Navigation Bar** provides links to the major components of the BCH.



*Figure 12. Navigation Bar*

The components of the Navigation Bar are:

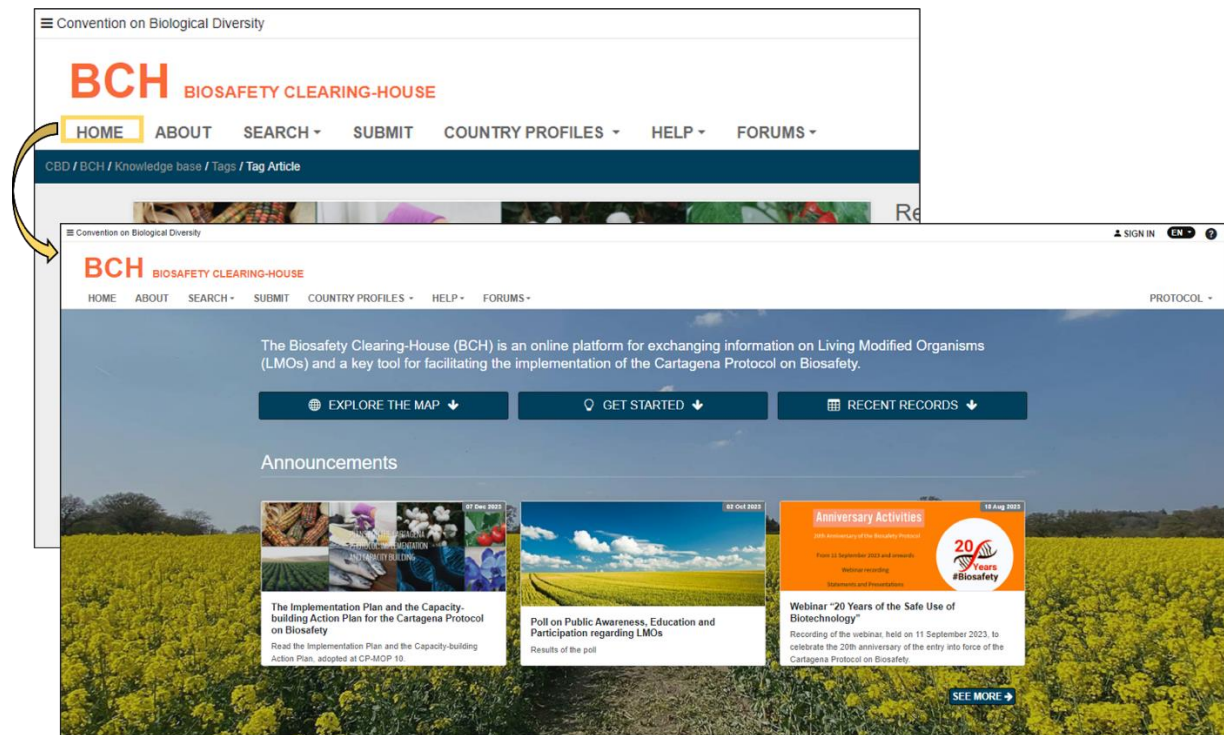
1. HOME
2. ABOUT
3. SEARCH
4. SUBMIT
5. COUNTRY PROFILES
6. HELP

7. FORUMS

8. PROTOCOL

### 3.1. Home

This page is the first access to the Biosafety Clearing-House. It contains the main information and links to the different components and data.



*Figure 13. BCH Home Page*

### 3.2. About

When you click on **ABOUT** you enter the **BCH Knowledge Base**, which is an online tool designed to help users become familiar with the Biosafety Clearing-House, learn how to submit records, search for information, and complete other important tasks. In addition, here you can find the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) and popular tags.



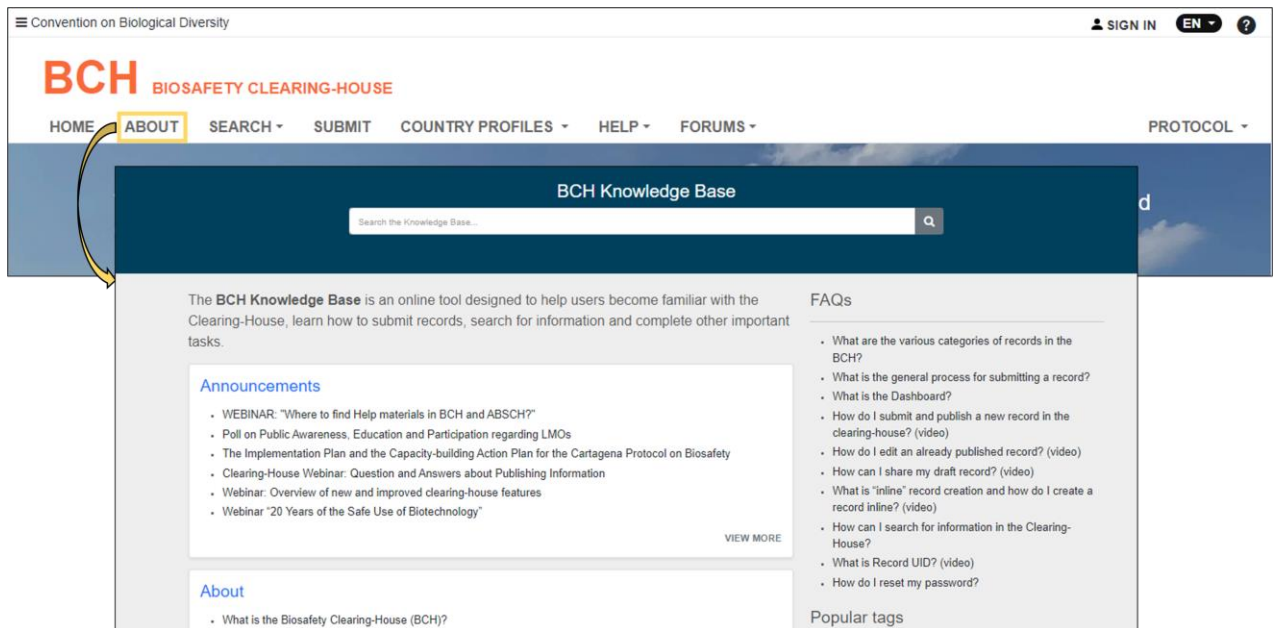


Figure 14. About

### 3.3. Search

The Search section is an essential part of the BCH. It provides access to links to search for different categories of information, such as: Records, Registries (LMO, Organism, Gene, Laboratories), Submissions to Notifications, and National Report Analyzer



Figure 15. Search

### 3.3.1. Records

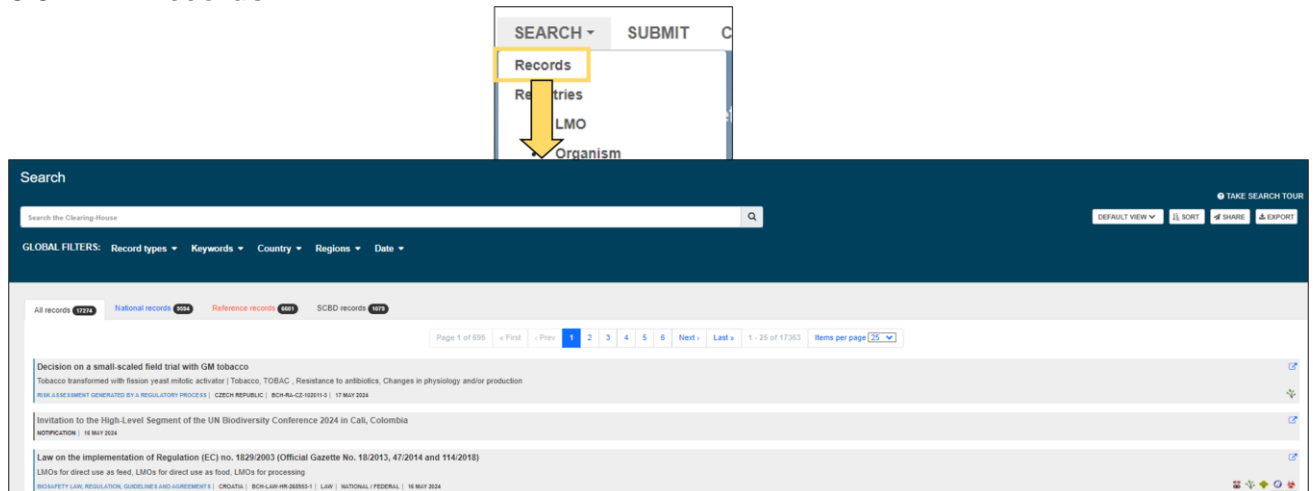


Figure 16. Records

On this page you will find all the records that are available on the BCH. There are three types of records in the BCH: **National** records (blue), **Reference** records (red), and **SCBD** records (black).

As a guide on how to manage these records we invite you to the "Take Search Tour" on the top right-hand side of this page, which will explain all the sections of this search page and help you understand how to find the information you are interested in.

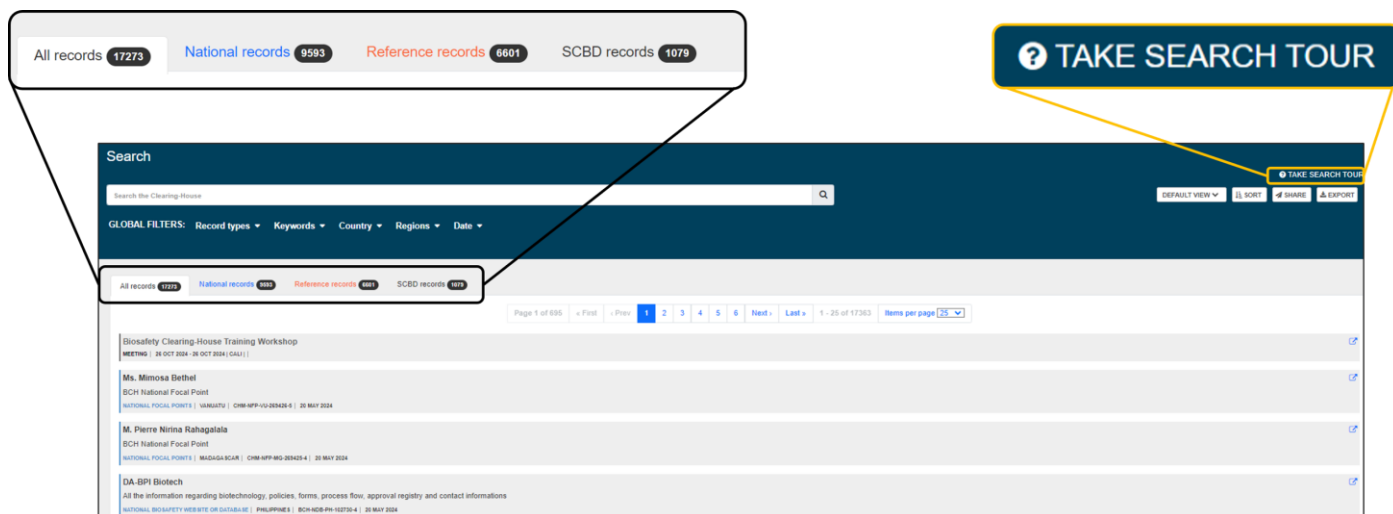
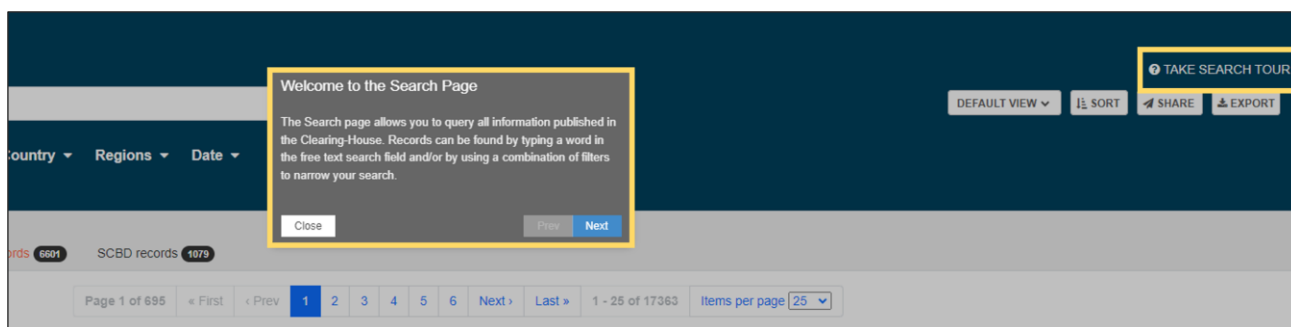
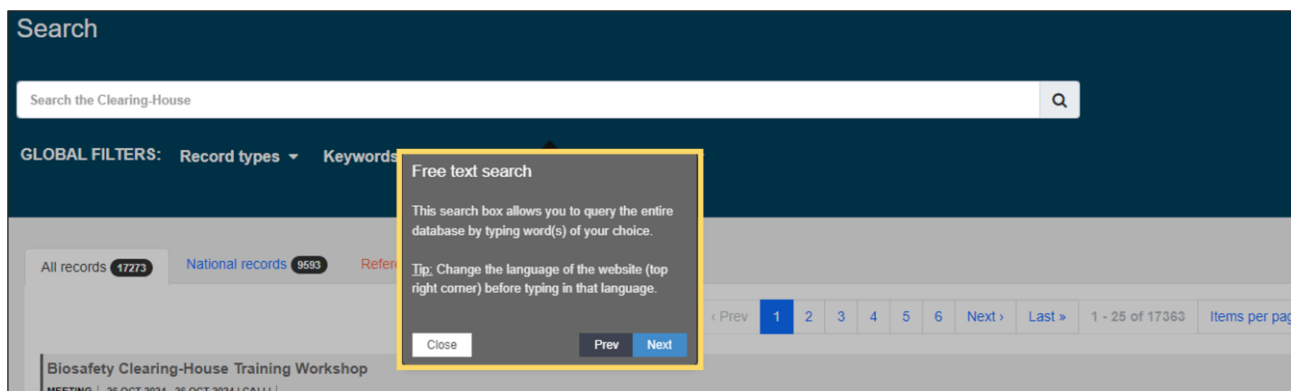


Figure 17. Records - Take Search Tour Button



*Figure 18. Example 1: Take Search Tour - Welcome to the Search Page*



*Figure 19. Example 2: Take Search Tour - Free text search*

We highlight some of the sections of this page:

1. **Global Filters:** Will help you choose the filters you want to include to perform the search you need. These include:
  - 1.1. **Record Types:** Within these you can select to display one or more of the different types of National, Reference and/or SCBD Records.
  - 1.2. **Keywords:** You can select to display one of the 202 keywords provided that can help you in your search.
  - 1.3. **Country:** by selecting one or more countries in the list, you can display information submitted by this/these countries on the BCH.
  - 1.4. **Regions:** this global filter allows you to display information submitted by one or more CBD Regions and/or Countries Groupings.
  - 1.5. **Date:** this global filter allows you to display information submitted during a specific date or a period of time.



Figure 20. Global Filters for Search

### 3.3.2. Registries

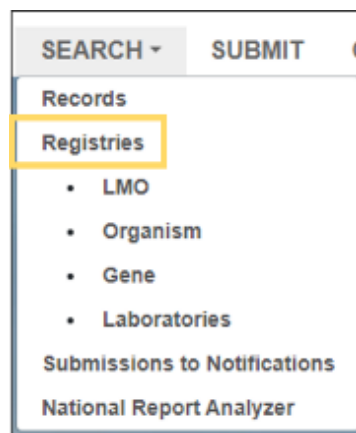


Figure 21. Registries

This page allows you to browse and display information submitted in specific registries of the BCH. There are four main registries (Figure 22):

1. **The Living Modified Organism (LMO) Registry:** provides summary information on all living modified organisms registered in the BCH, including transformation events, genetic modifications and the [unique identification code](#) (if available) for each record. Links to all decisions and risk assessment reports that refer to these organisms are accessible through the records in the registry.
2. **The Organism Registry:** includes summary information on those organisms that have been registered in the BCH as parental, recipient or donor organisms. The registry includes links to the records on each organism where further information about relevant biological characteristics, including information on taxonomic classification, common name, origin, centre of origin and centre of genetic diversity can be found. Links to records that reference the organism are provided at the bottom of each individual record.
3. **the Genetic Element Registry:** provides a summary of information on the genetic elements associated with the LMOs registered in the BCH, including information on the donor organism, conferred traits and biological function. The registry includes links to the records on each genetic element where more details may be found. LMOs containing the particular genetic element are

referenced at the bottom of the individual record.

4. **Laboratories (LAB) Registry:** provides summary of information on all laboratories, registered in the BCH, that are involved in the detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs).

The number of records in each registry is displayed at the top right of the registry.

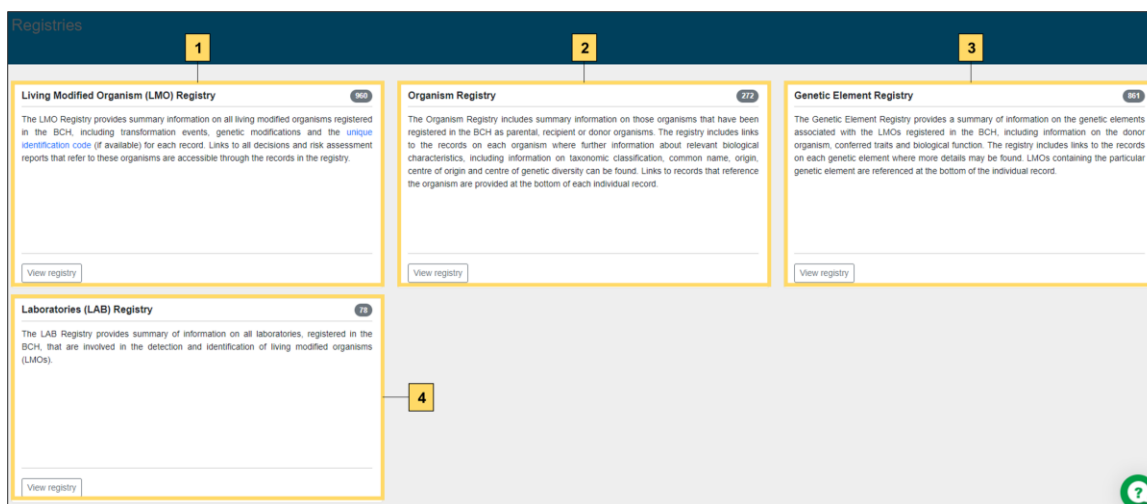


Figure 22. 2Types of Registries

### 3.3.2.1 LMO Registry

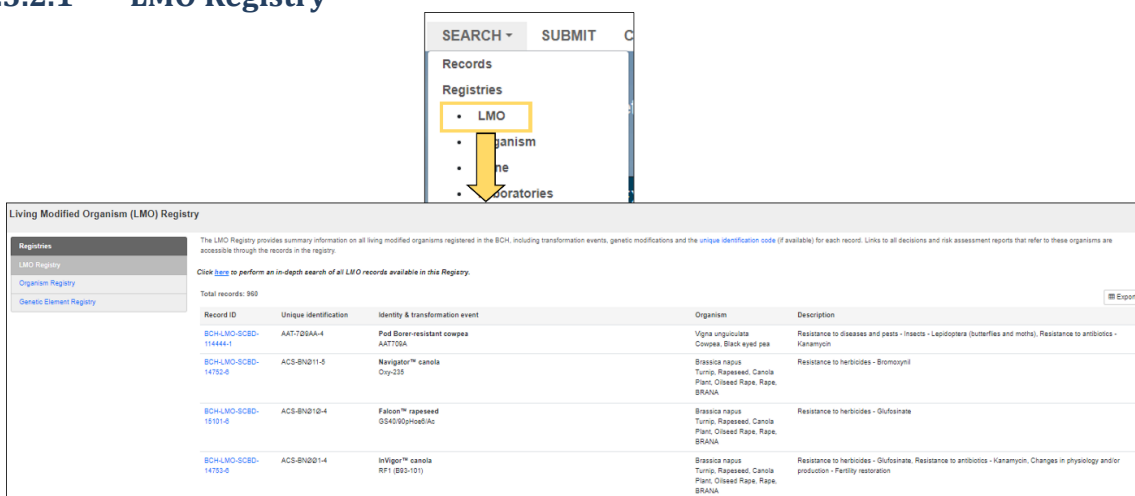


Figure 23. LMO Registry

The LMO Registry displays a list of all living modified organisms registered in the BCH. Each LMO has a:

- **A record ID - or unique identifier (UID)** - which is an identification code assigned automatically by the system to each record published in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). The Record UID consists of a combination of characters and numbers used to uniquely distinguish records in the BCH.

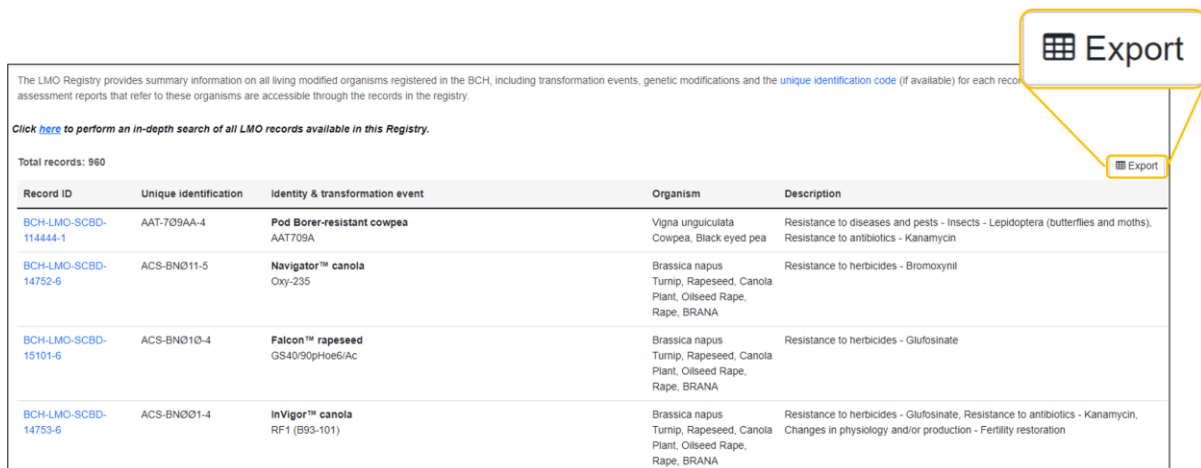
- a **Unique Identification Code** – or OECD Unique Identifier -which is a simple alphanumeric code that is given to each living modified plant that is approved for commercial use, including for use as food or feed, similar to the ISBN codes used to identify books. The OECD naming system has been designed so that developers of a new transgenic plant can generate an identifier and include it in the dossiers that they forward to national authorities during the safety assessment process. Once approved, national authorities forward the unique identifier to the OECD Secretariat for inclusion in the OECD’s product database, from which the information is automatically shared with the Biosafety Clearing-House.

The unique identifier is a nine-digit code, composed of three elements that are separated by dashes (-). These elements are:

- 2 or 3 alphanumeric digits to designate the applicant;
- 5 or 6 alphanumeric digits to designate the transformation event;
- 1 numerical digit for verification (this is intended to reduce errors by ensuring the integrity of the alphanumeric code).

Besides, the LMO Registry displays information about the transformation events, the genetic modifications, the organism and gives a description of the main traits. Links to all decisions and risk assessment reports that refer to these organisms are accessible through the records in the Registry.

It is important to note that at the top right of this page there is an **Export** icon. Clicking on this icon will provide you with an Excel file of all the LMO registries.



The screenshot shows the LMO Registry interface. At the top right, there is a yellow callout box with a grid icon and the text 'Export'. Below this, a table lists several records. The table has five columns: Record ID, Unique Identification, Identity & transformation event, Organism, and Description. The records listed are:

Record ID	Unique Identification	Identity & transformation event	Organism	Description
<a href="#">BCH-LMO-SCBD-114444-1</a>	AAT-7Ø9AA-4	<b>Pod Borer-resistant cowpea</b> AAT7Ø9A	Vigna unguiculata Cowpea, Black eyed pea	Resistance to diseases and pests - Insects - Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), Resistance to antibiotics - Kanamycin
<a href="#">BCH-LMO-SCBD-14752-6</a>	ACS-BNØ11-5	<b>Navigator™ canola</b> Oxy-235	Brassica napus Turnip, Rapeseed, Canola Plant, Oilseed Rape, Rape, BRANA	Resistance to herbicides - Bromoxynil
<a href="#">BCH-LMO-SCBD-151Ø1-6</a>	ACS-BNØ1Ø-4	<b>Falcon™ rapeseed</b> GS4Ø9ØpHøø6/Ac	Brassica napus Turnip, Rapeseed, Canola Plant, Oilseed Rape, Rape, BRANA	Resistance to herbicides - Glufosinate
<a href="#">BCH-LMO-SCBD-14753-6</a>	ACS-BNØØ1-4	<b>InVigor™ canola</b> RF1 (B93-1Ø1)	Brassica napus Turnip, Rapeseed, Canola Plant, Oilseed Rape, Rape, BRANA	Resistance to herbicides - Glufosinate, Resistance to antibiotics - Kanamycin, Changes in physiology and/or production - Fertility restoration

**Figure 24. 3Export LMO Registry**

..3.3.2.1.1 Example: Pod Borer- resistant Cowpea(Unique Identifier: AAT-7Ø9AA-4)

Total records: 980 Export

Record ID	Unique identification	Identity & transformation event	Organism	Description
BCH-LMO-SCBD-114444-1	AAT-709AA-4	Pod Borer-resistant cowpea AAT709A	Vigna unguiculata Cowpea, Black-eyed pea	Resistance to diseases and pests - Insects - Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), Resistance to antibiotics - Kanamycin
BCH-LMO-SCBD-14753	ACS-BN011-5	Navigator™ canola Oxy-235	Brassica napus Turnip, Rapeseed, Canola Plant, Oilseed Rape.	Resistance to herbicides - Bromoxynil

---

**LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISM (LMO)** BCH-LMO-SCBD-114444-1 | PDF | Print | Share

Decisions on the LMO Risk Assessments LAST UPDATED: 26 FEB 2019

**Living Modified Organism identity**

The image below identifies the LMO through its unique identifier, trade name and a link to this page of the BCH. Click on it to download a larger image on your computer. For help on how to use it go to the LMO quick-links page.

Name: Pod Borer-resistant cowpea EN

Transformation event: AAT709A

Does this LMO have a unique identifier?  Yes

Unique identifier: AAT-709AA-4

Developer(s): PERSON: AATF AND INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH | BCH-CON-NG-114246-3

PERSON:  
 AATF and Institute of Agricultural Research  
 ARCN Annex No. 3 Ibrahim Idris Street, Jabi (AATF) Institute of Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University, P.M B 1044, Zaria, Nigeria  
 Abuja, F.C.T  
 Nigeria  
 Phone: 254-204223700, +234 8028373464  
 Fax: 254-204223701  
 Email: rsadamu@gmail.com

Figure 25. Example of LMO - Pod Borer-resistant cowpea

In each LMO record you find, among other data, the name of the LMO, its QR code, its Unique Identifier, the developers, the characteristics of the LMO, the characteristics of the genetic transformation, and detection methods (Figure 25).

### 3.3.2.2 The Organism Registry

SEARCH - SUBMIT C

- Records
- Registries
  - LMO
  - **Organism**
  - C&S
  - Laboratories
- Submissions to Notifications

**Organism Registry**

The Organism Registry includes summary information on those organisms that have been registered in the BCH as parental, recipient or donor organisms. The registry includes links to the records on each organism where further information about relevant biological characteristics, including information on taxonomic classification, common name, origin, centre of origin and centre of genetic diversity can be found. Links to records that reference the organism are provided at the bottom of each individual record.

Click [here](#) to perform an in-depth search of all Organism records available in this Registry.

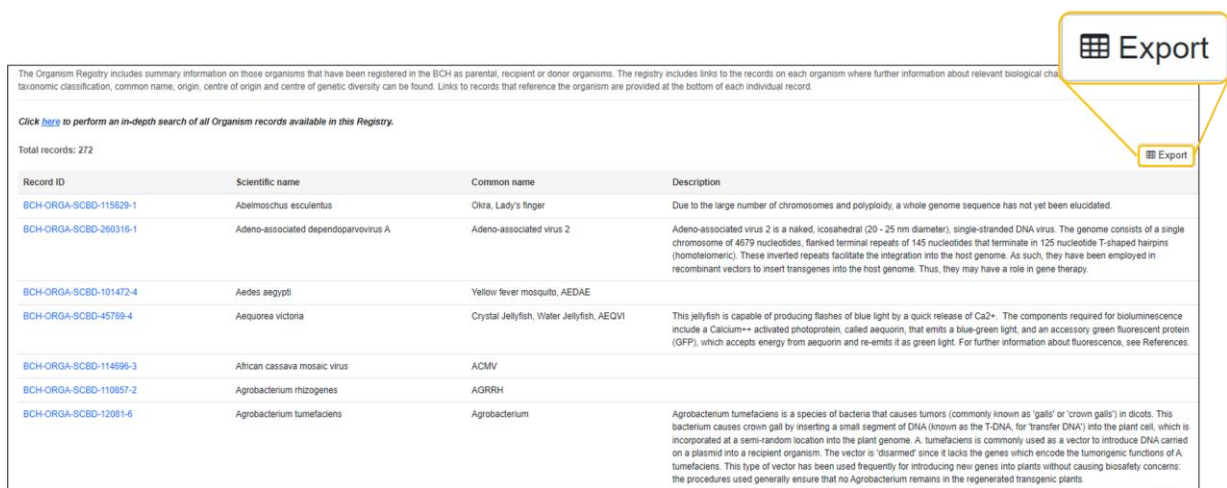
Total records: 272 Export

Record ID	Scientific name	Common name	Description
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-115629-1	Abelmoschus esculentus	Okra, Lady's finger	Due to the large number of chromosomes and polyploidy, a whole genome sequence has not yet been elucidated.
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-20019-1	Adeno-associated dependoparvovirus A	Adeno-associated virus 2	Adeno-associated virus 2 is a related, icosahedral (20-25 nm diameter), single-stranded DNA virus. The genome consists of a single chromosome of 4879 nucleotides, flanked terminal repeats of 145 nucleotides that terminate in 128 nucleotide T-stapled hairpins (homotrimeric). These inverted repeats facilitate the integration into the host genome. As such, they have been employed in recombinant vectors to insert transgenes into the host genome. Thus, they may have a role in gene therapy.
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-101472-4	Aedes aegypti	Yellow fever mosquito, AEDAE	
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-45765-4	Aequorea victoria	Crystal Jellyfish, Water Jellyfish, AEQVI	This jellyfish is capable of producing flashes of blue light by a quick release of Ca <sup>2+</sup> . The components required for bioluminescence include a Calcium-activated photoprotein, called aequorin, that emits a blue-green light, and an accessory green fluorescent protein (GFP), which accepts energy from aequorin and re-emits it as green light. For further information about fluorescence, see References.
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-114595-3	African cassava mosaic virus	ACMV	
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-110387-2	Agrobacterium rhizogenes	AGRRH	
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-12061-5	Agrobacterium tumefaciens	Agrobacterium	Agrobacterium tumefaciens is a species of bacteria that causes tumors (commonly known as 'galls' or 'crown galls') in dicots. This bacterium causes crown gall by inserting a small segment of DNA (known as the T-DNA, for transfer DNA) into the plant cell, which is incorporated at a semi-random location into the plant genome. A. tumefaciens is commonly used as a vector to introduce DNA cloned on a plasmid into a recipient organism. The vector is 'disarmed' since it lacks the genes which encode the tumorigenic functions of A. tumefaciens. This type of vector has been used frequently for introducing new genes into plants without causing biosafety concerns: the procedures used generally ensure that A. tumefaciens remains in the regenerated transgenic plants.

Figure 26. Organism Registry in Search

The **Organism** Registry includes summary information on those organisms that have been registered in the BCH as parental, recipient, or donor organisms. The registry includes links to the records on each organism, where further information about relevant biological characteristics – including information on taxonomic classification, common name, origin, center of origin, and center of genetic diversity – can be found. Links to records that reference the organism are provided at the bottom of each individual record.

It is important to note that at the top right of this page there is an **Export** icon and if you click on it, you will have an Excel file of all the Organism Registry.



The Organism Registry includes summary information on those organisms that have been registered in the BCH as parental, recipient or donor organisms. The registry includes links to the records on each organism where further information about relevant biological characteristics, taxonomic classification, common name, origin, centre of origin and centre of genetic diversity can be found. Links to records that reference the organism are provided at the bottom of each individual record.

Click [here](#) to perform an in-depth search of all Organism records available in this Registry.

Total records: 272

Record ID	Scientific name	Common name	Description
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-115629-1	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	Okra, Lady's finger	Due to the large number of chromosomes and polyploidy, a whole genome sequence has not yet been elucidated.
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-260316-1	Adeno-associated dependoparvovirus A	Adeno-associated virus 2	Adeno-associated virus 2 is a naked, icosahedral (20 - 25 nm diameter), single-stranded DNA virus. The genome consists of a single chromosome of 4870 nucleotides, flanked terminal repeats of 145 nucleotides that terminate in 125 nucleotide T-shaped hairpins (homotetrameric). These inverted repeats facilitate the integration into the host genome. As such, they have been employed in recombinant vectors to insert transgenes into the host genome. Thus, they may have a role in gene therapy.
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-101472-4	<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Yellow fever mosquito, AEDA	
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-45769-4	<i>Aequorea victoria</i>	Crystal Jellyfish, Water Jellyfish, AEOVI	This jellyfish is capable of producing flashes of blue light by a quick release of Ca <sup>2+</sup> . The components required for bioluminescence include a Calcium++ activated photoprotein, called aequorin, that emits a blue-green light, and an accessory green fluorescent protein (GFP), which accepts energy from aequorin and re-emits it as green light. For further information about fluorescence, see References.
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-114696-3	African cassava mosaic virus	ACMV	
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-110857-2	<i>Agrobacterium rhizogenes</i>	AGRHH	
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-12081-6	<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i>	Agrobacterium	<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> is a species of bacteria that causes tumors (commonly known as 'galls' or 'crown galls') in dicots. This bacterium causes crown gall by inserting a small segment of DNA (known as the T-DNA, for 'transfer DNA') into the plant cell, which is incorporated at a semi-random location into the plant genome. <i>A. tumefaciens</i> is commonly used as a vector to introduce DNA carried on a plasmid into a recipient organism. The vector is 'disarmed' since it lacks the genes which encode the tumorigenic functions of <i>A. tumefaciens</i> . This type of vector has been used frequently for introducing new genes into plants without causing biosafety concerns: the procedures used generally ensure that no <i>Agrobacterium</i> remains in the regenerated transgenic plants.

**Figure 27. Export Organism Registry**

..3.3.2.2.1 Example: the okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)



Total records: 272 Export

Record ID	Scientific name	Common name	Description
BCH-ORGA-SCBD-115629-1	Abelmoschus esculentus	Okra, Lady's finger	Due to the large number of chromosomes and polyploidy, a whole genome sequence has not yet been elucidated.
BCH-ORGA-1-360316-1	Adeno-associated dependoparvovirus A	Adeno-associated virus 2	Adeno-associated virus 2 is a naked, icosahedral (20 - 25 nm diameter), single-stranded DNA virus. The genome consists of a single chromosome of 4079 nucleotides, flanked terminal repeats of 145 nucleotides that terminate in 125 nucleotide T-shaped hairpins (nonretroviral). These inverted repeats facilitate the integration into the host genome. As such, they have been employed in recombinant vectors to insert transgenes into the host genome. Thus, they may have a role in gene therapy.

**ORGANISM (ORGA)** BCH-ORGA-SCBD-115629-1 | PDF | Print | Share

LAST UPDATED: 03 JUL 2020

**Organism information**

Scientific name  
Abelmoschus esculentus

Taxonomic Classification

Kingdom	Plantae
Class	Magnoliopsida
Order	Malvales
Family	Malvaceae
Genus	Abelmoschus
Species	Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Moench

Alternate scientific name(s) (synonym(s))  
Hibiscus esculentus L.

Common name(s)

Okra	EN
Lady's finger	EN

Type of organism  
Crops

Domestication  
Domesticated

**Characteristics related to biosafety**

Centre(s) of origin

Figure 28. Organism Example – *Abelmoschus esculentus*

In this record you can find, among other data, the scientific name of the organism, its common name, its taxonomic classification, its center of origin, its habitat range, and its geographical distribution.

### 3.3.2.3 Gene Registry

SEARCH - SUBMIT

Records

Registries

- LMO
- Organism
- **Gene**
- Laboratories

Submissions to Notifications

National Report Analyzer

**Genetic Element Registry**

The Genetic Element Registry provides a summary of information on the genetic elements associated with the LMOs registered in the BCH, including information on the donor organism, conferred traits and biological function. The registry includes links to the records on each genetic element where more details may be found. LMOs containing the particular genetic element are referenced at the bottom of the individual record.

Click [here](#) to perform an in-depth search of all Genetic Element records available in this Registry.

Total records: 961 Export

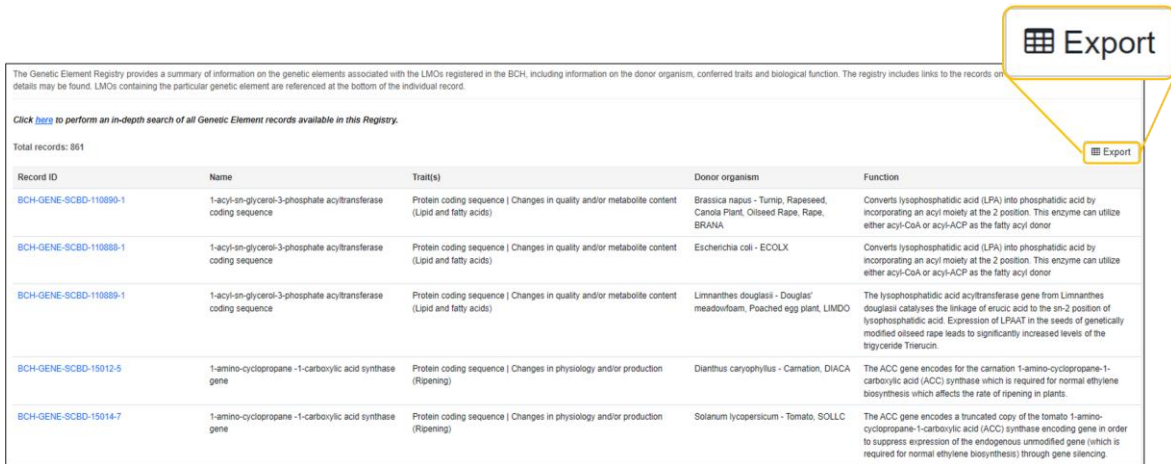
Record ID	Name	Trait(s)	Donor organism	Function
BCH-GENE-SCBD-115890-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Brassica napus - Turnip, Rapeseed, Canola Plant, Oilseed Rape, Rape, BRANA	Converts lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) into phosphatidic acid by incorporating an acyl moiety at the 2 position. This enzyme can utilize either acyl-CoA or acyl-ACP as the fatty acyl donor
BCH-GENE-SCBD-115888-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Escherichia coli - ECOLX	Converts lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) into phosphatidic acid by incorporating an acyl moiety at the 2 position. This enzyme can utilize either acyl-CoA or acyl-ACP as the fatty acyl donor
BCH-GENE-SCBD-115889-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Limnanthes douglasii - Douglas' meadowfoam, Peached egg plant, LIMDO	The lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase gene from Limnanthes douglasii catalyzes the linkage of erucic acid to the sn-2 position of lysophosphatidic acid. Expression of LPAAT in the seeds of genetically modified oilseed rape leads to significantly increased levels of the triglyceride Trierucin.
BCH-GENE-SCBD-15012-4	1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid synthase gene	Protein coding sequence   Changes in physiology and/or production (Ripening)	Dianthus caryophyllus - Carnation, DIACA	The ACC gene encodes for the carnation 1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid (ACC) synthase which is required for normal ethylene biosynthesis which affects the rate of ripening in plants.
BCH-GENE-SCBD-15014-7	1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid synthase gene	Protein coding sequence   Changes in physiology and/or production (Ripening)	Solanum lycopersicum - Tomato, SOLLC	The ACC gene encodes a truncated copy of the tomato 1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid (ACC) synthase encoding gene in order to suppress expression of the endogenous unmodified gene which is required for normal ethylene biosynthesis) through gene silencing.

Figure 29. Gene Registry in Search

If you go to the **Gene** Registry you will access the information about the Genetic Element Registry, which provides a summary of information on the genetic elements

associated with the LMOs registered in the BCH, including information on the donor organism, conferred traits, and biological function. The registry includes links to the records on each genetic element where more details may be found. LMOs containing the particular genetic element are referenced at the bottom of the individual record.

It is important to note that at the top right of this page there is an **Export** icon and if you click on it, you will have an Excel file of all the Gene registries.



The Genetic Element Registry provides a summary of information on the genetic elements associated with the LMOs registered in the BCH, including information on the donor organism, conferred traits and biological function. The registry includes links to the records or details may be found. LMOs containing the particular genetic element are referenced at the bottom of the individual record.

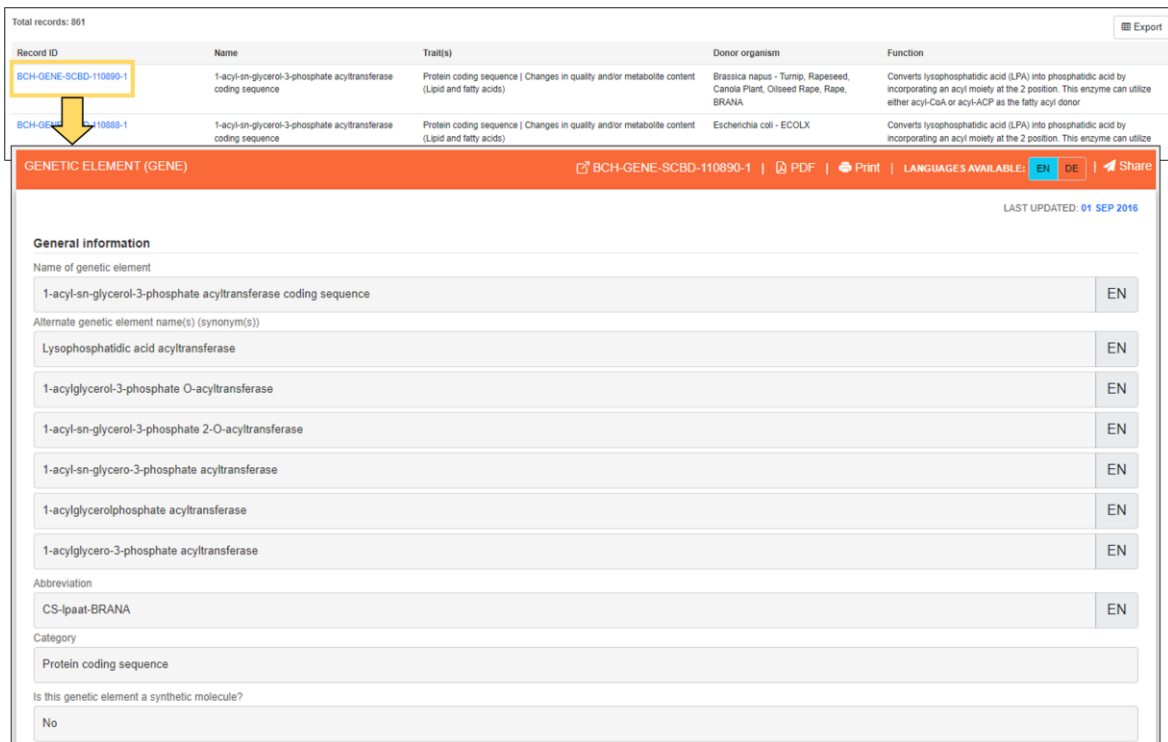
Click [here](#) to perform an in-depth search of all Genetic Element records available in this Registry.

Total records: 861

Record ID	Name	Trait(s)	Donor organism	Function
BCH-GENE-SCBD-110890-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Brassica napus - Turnip, Rapeseed, Canola Plant, Oilseed Rape, Rape, BRANA	Converts lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) into phosphatidic acid by incorporating an acyl moiety at the 2 position. This enzyme can utilize either acyl-CoA or acyl-ACP as the fatty acyl donor
BCH-GENE-SCBD-110888-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Escherichia coli - ECOLX	Converts lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) into phosphatidic acid by incorporating an acyl moiety at the 2 position. This enzyme can utilize either acyl-CoA or acyl-ACP as the fatty acyl donor
BCH-GENE-SCBD-110889-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Linum catharticum - Douglas' meadowfoam, Peached egg plant, LIMDO	The lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase gene from Linum catharticum catalyzes the linkage of erucic acid to the sn-2 position of lysophosphatidic acid. Expression of LPAAT in the seeds of genetically modified oilseed rape leads to significantly increased levels of the triglyceride Thrueruc.
BCH-GENE-SCBD-15012-5	1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid synthase gene	Protein coding sequence   Changes in physiology and/or production (Ripening)	Dianthus caryophyllus - Carnation, DIACA	The ACC gene encodes for the carnation 1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid (ACC) synthase which is required for normal ethylene biosynthesis which affects the rate of ripening in plants.
BCH-GENE-SCBD-15014-7	1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid synthase gene	Protein coding sequence   Changes in physiology and/or production (Ripening)	Solanum lycopersicum - Tomato, SOLLC	The ACC gene encodes a truncated copy of the tomato 1-amino-cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid (ACC) synthase encoding gene in order to suppress expression of the endogenous unmodified gene (which is required for normal ethylene biosynthesis) through gene silencing.

**Figure 30. 4Export Gene Registry**

..3.3.2.3.1 Example: the gene coding for the “1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase” enzyme (record ID: [BCH-GENE-SCBD-110890-1](#))



Total records: 861

Record ID	Name	Trait(s)	Donor organism	Function
BCH-GENE-SCBD-110890-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Brassica napus - Turnip, Rapeseed, Canola Plant, Oilseed Rape, Rape, BRANA	Converts lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) into phosphatidic acid by incorporating an acyl moiety at the 2 position. This enzyme can utilize either acyl-CoA or acyl-ACP as the fatty acyl donor
BCH-GENE-SCBD-110888-1	1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence	Protein coding sequence   Changes in quality and/or metabolite content (Lipid and fatty acids)	Escherichia coli - ECOLX	Converts lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) into phosphatidic acid by incorporating an acyl moiety at the 2 position. This enzyme can utilize either acyl-CoA or acyl-ACP as the fatty acyl donor

GENETIC ELEMENT (GENE) BCH-GENE-SCBD-110890-1 | PDF | Print | LANGUAGES AVAILABLE: EN DE | Share

LAST UPDATED: 01 SEP 2016

**General information**

Name of genetic element  
1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding sequence EN

Alternate genetic element name(s) (synonym(s))

- Lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase EN
- 1-acylglycerol-3-phosphate O-acyltransferase EN
- 1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate 2-O-acyltransferase EN
- 1-acyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphate acyltransferase EN
- 1-acylglycerolphosphate acyltransferase EN
- 1-acylglycero-3-phosphate acyltransferase EN

Abbreviation  
CS-lpaat-BRANA EN

Category  
Protein coding sequence

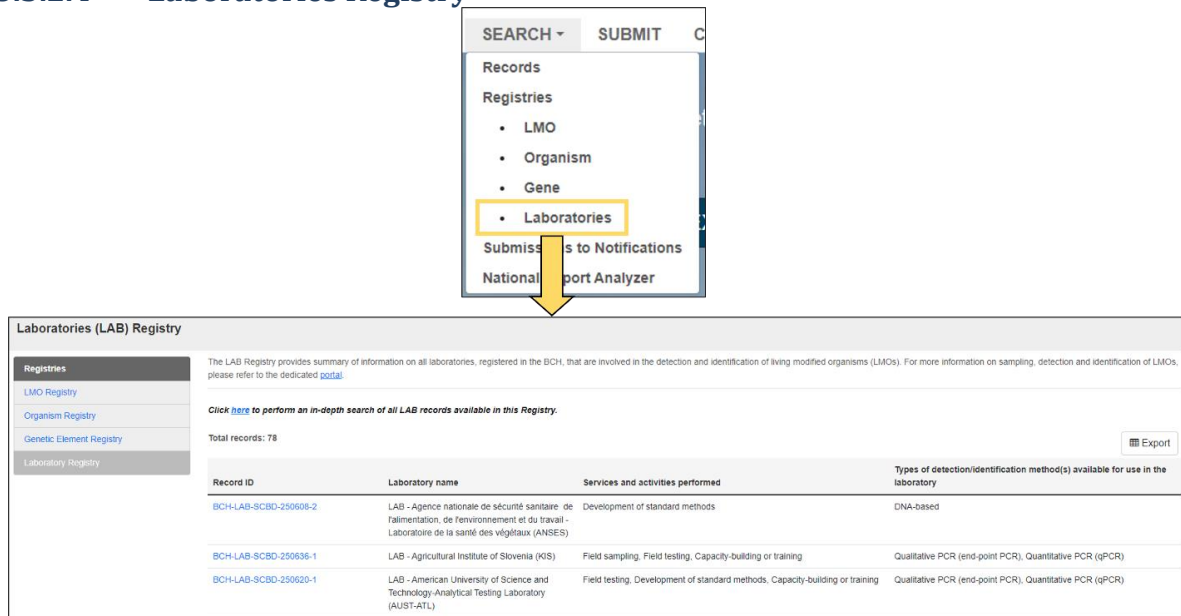
Is this genetic element a synthetic molecule?  
No

**Figure 31. 5Gene Example - 1-acyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphate acyltransferase coding**

## sequence

In this Genetic Element record, you could find, among other data, the name of the element, its abbreviation, characteristics of the protein coding sequence, and the protein's biological function.

### 3.3.2.4 Laboratories Registry



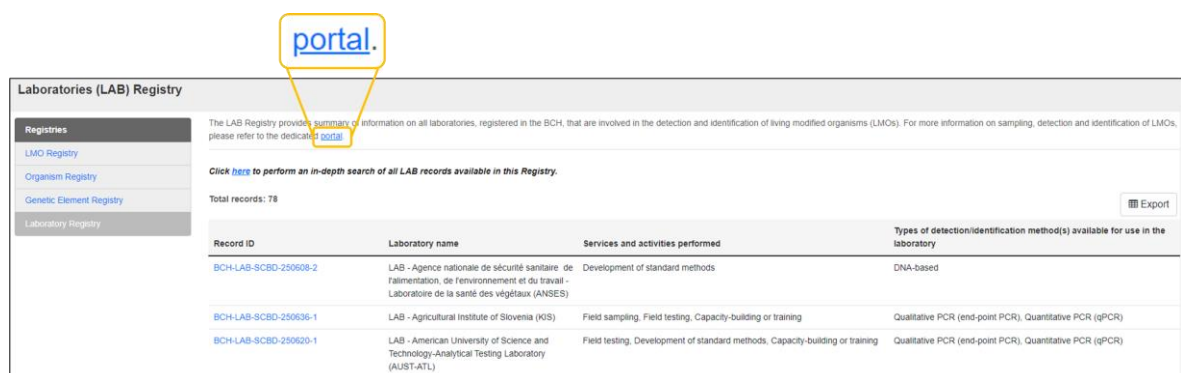
The screenshot shows the BCH website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'SEARCH' and 'SUBMIT' buttons. A dropdown menu is open under 'SEARCH', listing various categories: 'Records', 'Registries', 'LMO', 'Organism', 'Gene', 'Laboratories' (highlighted with a yellow box), 'Submissions to Notifications', and 'National Report Analyzer'. Below this, the 'Laboratories (LAB) Registry' page is displayed. It includes a sidebar with 'Registries' and sub-links for 'LMO Registry', 'Organism Registry', 'Genetic Element Registry', and 'Laboratory Registry'. The main content area contains a summary of the registry, a link to an in-depth search, and a table of records. The table has four columns: 'Record ID', 'Laboratory name', 'Services and activities performed', and 'Types of detection/identification method(s) available for use in the laboratory'. Three records are listed in the table.

Record ID	Laboratory name	Services and activities performed	Types of detection/identification method(s) available for use in the laboratory
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250608-2	LAB - Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail - Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux (ANSES)	Development of standard methods	DNA-based
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250636-1	LAB - Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (IOS)	Field sampling, Field testing, Capacity-building or training	Qualitative PCR (end-point PCR), Quantitative PCR (qPCR)
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250620-1	LAB - American University of Science and Technology-Analytical Testing Laboratory (AUST-ATL)	Field testing, Development of standard methods, Capacity-building or training	Qualitative PCR (end-point PCR), Quantitative PCR (qPCR)

Figure 32. Laboratory Registries

If you go to the **Laboratories** section, you will find information on all the laboratories registered in the BCH that are involved in the detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs).

If you are interested in having more information on sampling, detection, and identification of LMOs, be aware that you can access the specific **portal** for this through the link at the end of this page's introductory paragraph.



This screenshot is similar to Figure 32 but highlights the 'portal' link in the introductory text with a yellow callout box. The table of laboratory records remains the same.

Figure 33. Laboratories Portal

It is important to note that at the top right of this page there is an **Export** icon and if you click on it, you will have an Excel file of all the Laboratory registries.

The LAB Registry provides summary of information on all laboratories, registered in the BCH, that are involved in the detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs). For more information on sampling, detection and identification of LMOs, please refer to the dedicated [portal](#).

Click [here](#) to perform an in-depth search of all LAB records available in this Registry.

Total records: 78

Record ID	Laboratory name	Services and activities performed	Types of detection/identification method(s) available for use in the laboratory
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250608-2	LAB - Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail - Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux (ANSES)	Development of standard methods	DNA-based
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250636-1	LAB - Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (KIS)	Field sampling, Field testing, Capacity-building or training	Qualitative PCR (end-point PCR), Quantitative PCR (qPCR)
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250620-1	LAB - American University of Science and Technology- Analytical Testing Laboratory (AUST-ATL)	Field testing, Development of standard methods, Capacity-building or training	Qualitative PCR (end-point PCR), Quantitative PCR (qPCR)
BCH-LAB-SCBD-256367-1	LAB - BASF South Africa		
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250624-2	LAB - Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority (LGL)	Other	DNA sequencing, Qualitative PCR (end-point PCR), Quantitative PCR (qPCR), Strip test
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250604-2	LAB - Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA)	Field sampling, Field testing, Other	Quantitative PCR (qPCR), Strip test
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250606-2	LAB - Cairo University Research Park Faculty of Agriculture (CURP)	Field sampling, Field testing, Development of standard methods, Development of reference materials, Supply of reference materials, Organization of inter-laboratory comparisons, Validation of third parties' results and methods, Capacity-building or training	DNA sequencing, Qualitative PCR (end-point PCR), Quantitative PCR (qPCR), ELISA

**Figure 34. Export Laboratory Registry**

**..3.3.2.4.1 Example: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail - Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux (ANSES)**

As an example the record of the « Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail - Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux (ANSES) » is displayed below.

Total records: 78

Record ID	Laboratory name	Services and activities performed	Types of detection/identification method(s) available for use in the laboratory
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250608-2	LAB - Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail - Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux (ANSES)	Development of standard methods	DNA-based
BCH-LAB-SCBD-250636-1	LAB - Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (KIS)	Field sampling, Field testing, Capacity-building or training	Qualitative PCR (end-point PCR), Quantitative PCR (qPCR)

**LABORATORY FOR DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF LMOs (LAB)** | BCH-LAB-SCBD-250608-2 | PDF | Print | Share | Compare

PUBLISHED: 30 MAR 2018 LAST UPDATED: 29 MAR 2021

**General Information**

**Laboratory name and coordinates**

**AGENCE NATIONALE DE SÉCURITÉ SANITAIRE DE L'ALIMENTATION, DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU TRAVAIL - LABORATOIRE DE LA SANTÉ DES VÉGÉTAUX (ANSES)** [BCH-ORG-SCBD-113341-2](#)  
 Government agency (National/Federal)

7 rue Jean Dixmèras  
 Angers  
 49044, France  
 Phone: +33 (0)2 41 20 74 25  
 Fax: +33 (0)2 41 20 74 30  
 Email: [mathieu.rolland@anses.fr](mailto:mathieu.rolland@anses.fr)  
 Website: <https://www.anses.fr/fr/content/laboratoire-de-la-sant%C3%A9-des-v%C3%A9g%C3%A9taux>

Services and activities performed

Development of standard methods

Collaborative agreements

French government - General directorate for food | EN  
 European union reference laboratory | EN

Accreditations and certifications of the laboratory

ISO 17025 | EN

Types of detection/identification method(s) available for use in the laboratory

DNA-based

Types of LMOs

Plants

**Figure 35. Laboratory Example - Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail - Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux (ANSES)**

In each LAB record you will find, among other information, the name of the laboratory and its coordinates, the services and activities it performs, the accreditations and

certifications it has, and the methods of detection and identification of LMOs it carries out.

### 3.3.3. Submissions to Notifications

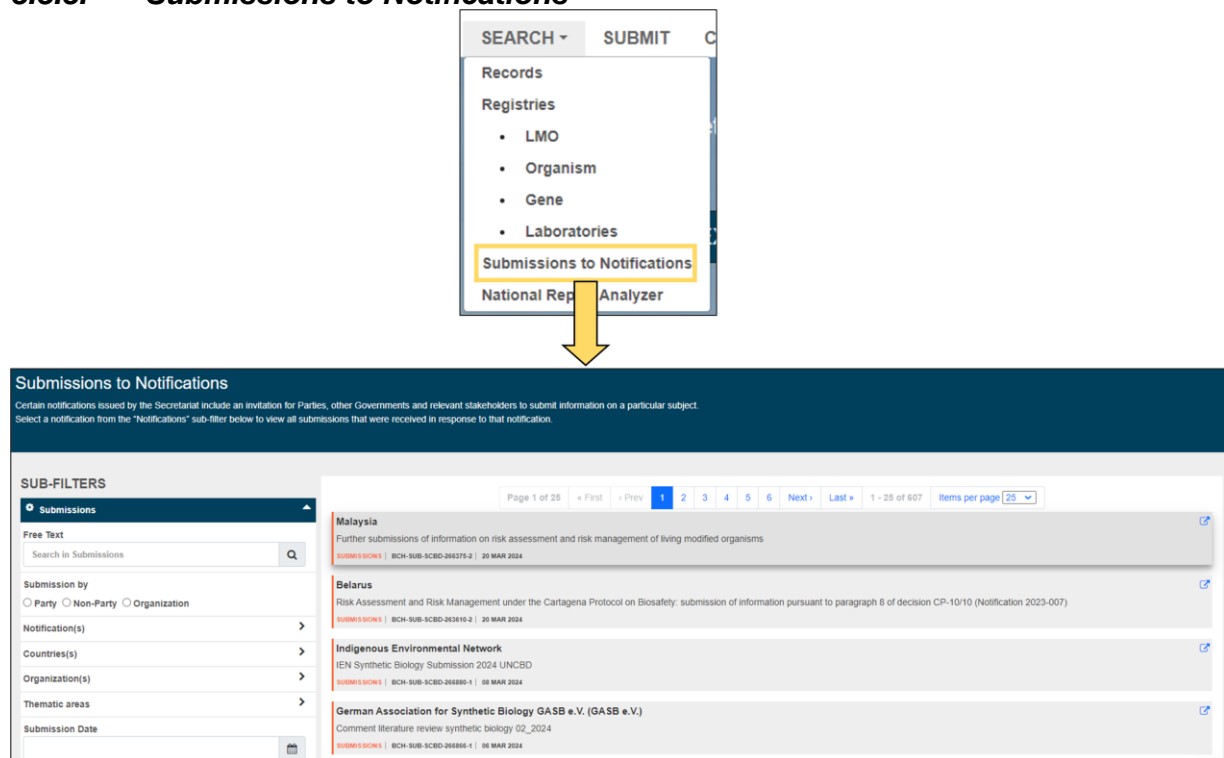


Figure 36. Submissions to Notifications

In this section you will find notifications issued by the Secretariat that include invitations to the Parties on different requests related to the Cartagena Protocol, or notifications from governments and interested parties providing information on specific topics.

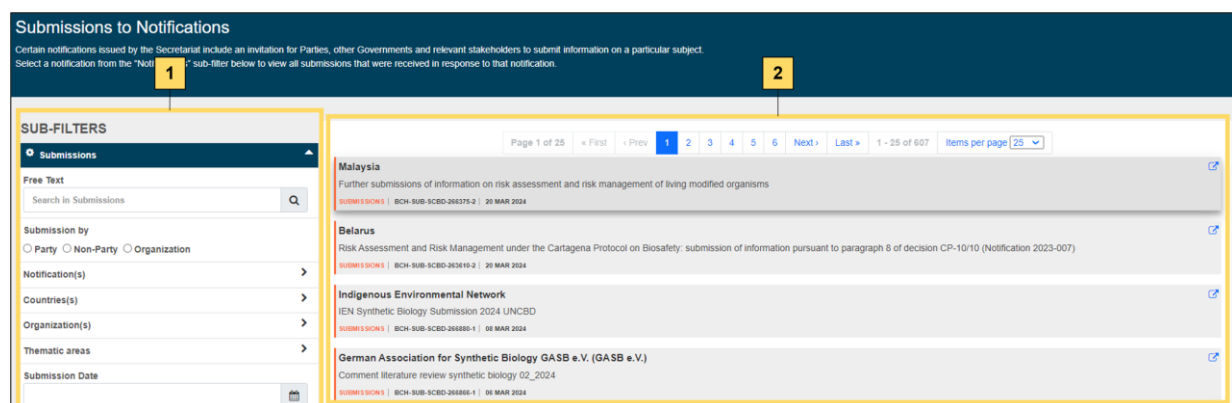


Figure 37. Submissions to Notifications page sections

On this page you will find:

5. **Left hand menu: Sub-Filters:** you can choose the filter to search for the notification you need.

These sub-filters include:

- a) *Free Text*
  - b) *Submission made by Party, Non-Party, or Organization*
  - c) *Notifications*
  - d) *Countries*
  - e) *Thematic Areas*
  - f) *Submission Date*
6. The list of all the notifications found on the BCH starting with the most recent one.

To reflect what is contained in a notification, we have taken the Malaysia notification as an example.

The screenshot displays the 'Submissions to Notifications' interface. At the top, it states: 'Certain notifications issued by the Secretariat include an invitation for Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders to submit information on a particular subject. Select a notification from the "Notifications" sub-filter below to view all submissions that were received in response to that notification.'

The 'SUB-FILTERS' section on the left includes 'Submissions', 'Free Text' (with a search box), 'Submission by' (Party, Non-Party, Organization), and 'Notification(s)'. The main list shows three entries: 'Malaysia' (highlighted with a yellow box and a yellow arrow pointing to its details), 'Belarus', and 'Indigenous Environmental Network'. Each entry includes a title and a date.

The detailed view for the Malaysia submission shows the following information:

- General Information:** Country: Malaysia
- Submission Information:** Title of the submission: Further submissions of information on risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms; Date of submission: 12 Jan 2024
- Related notification(s):** SCBD/CPU/DC/WM/MW/90762 (2023-129)

The interface also includes pagination (Page 1 of 25) and a 'Items per page' dropdown set to 25.

**Figure 38. Submissions to Notifications - Example Malaysia**

In this case, it is a submission made by Malaysia in relation to a literature review on synthetic biology. Here you will find the date of the submission and the information that Malaysia sent to the SCDB on this topic.

### 3.3.4. National Report Analyzer

Report	Deadline	Number of Parties at the deadline	AFR	Asia	CEE	GRULAC	WEOG	By Parties*	By Non-Parties*	Total
CPB - Interim National Report	11 Sep 2005	121	9	7	12	9	18	55	0	55
CPB - First National Report	11 Sep 2007	141	25	20	16	12	18	87	4	91
CPB - Second National Report	30 Sep 2011	161	49	40	21	27	19	153	3	156
CPB - Third National Report	31 Oct 2015	170	48	41	21	29	21	160	0	160
CPB - Fourth National Report	01 Oct 2019	171	43	35	22	24	21	145	0	145

Figure 39. National Report Analyzer

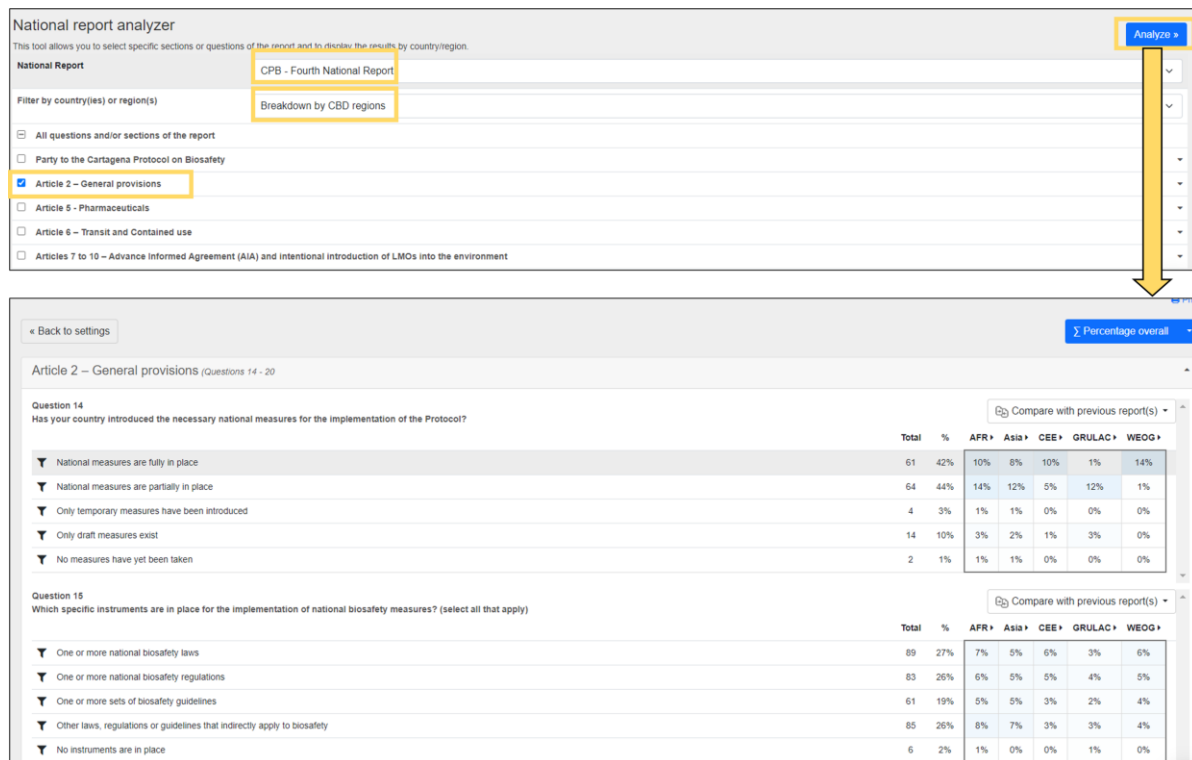
On this page you will find the reports that the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol have sent to the SCBD. So far, four national reports have been submitted.

Figure 40. National Report Analyzer Sections

In the first part of this page (1) you will find an overview of the reports submitted so far, where you will find data on the number of reports received, the number of reports received per region, and the number of reports received from Parties and Non-Parties.

Further down in this page you will find the **National report analyzer (2)** which is a tool that allows you to select specific sections or questions of the reports and to display the results by country/region.

To search for information in the reports you will be able to choose what reporting period you want, what country or region you need to search for, and what type of information: information on the whole report, or specific information according to the subject of the articles of the Cartagena Protocol.



**Figure 41. National Report Analyzer Example**

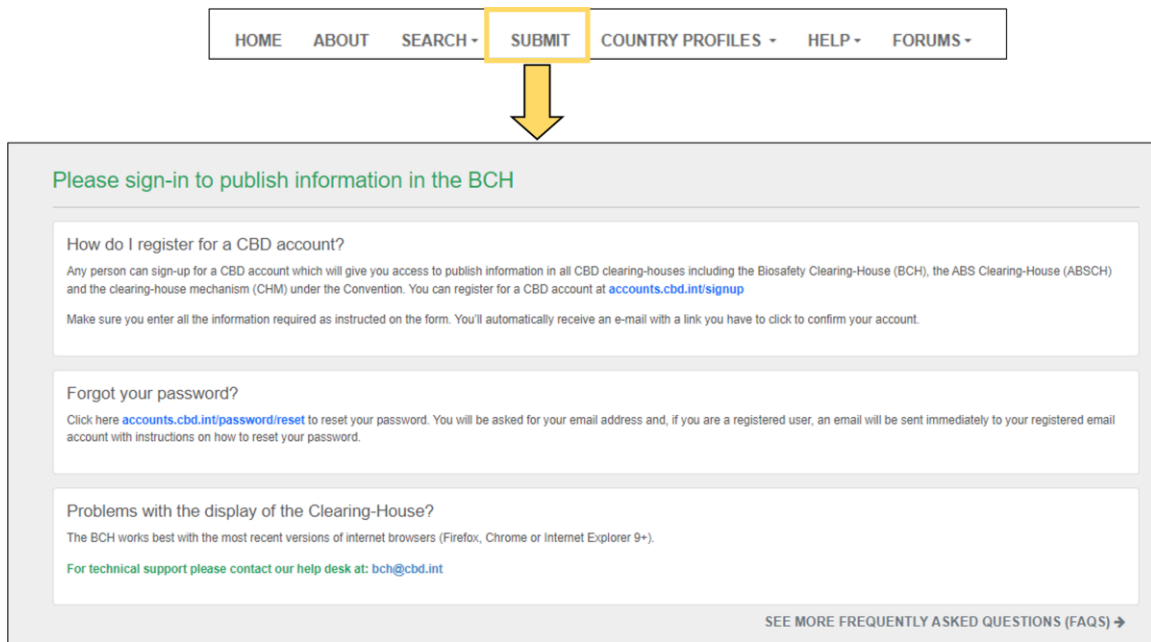
In the example in Figure 41, the Fourth National Report, the CBD regions, and the information on Article 2 were chosen. When you click on “Analyze”, the information corresponding to the criteria chosen for your search is displayed.

### 3.4. Submit

Through this section, you will be able to publish information in the BCH according to your role: Competent National Authority, National Focal Point, National Authorized User, Organization, etc.

To be able to publish, remember that you need to have a registered CBD account.

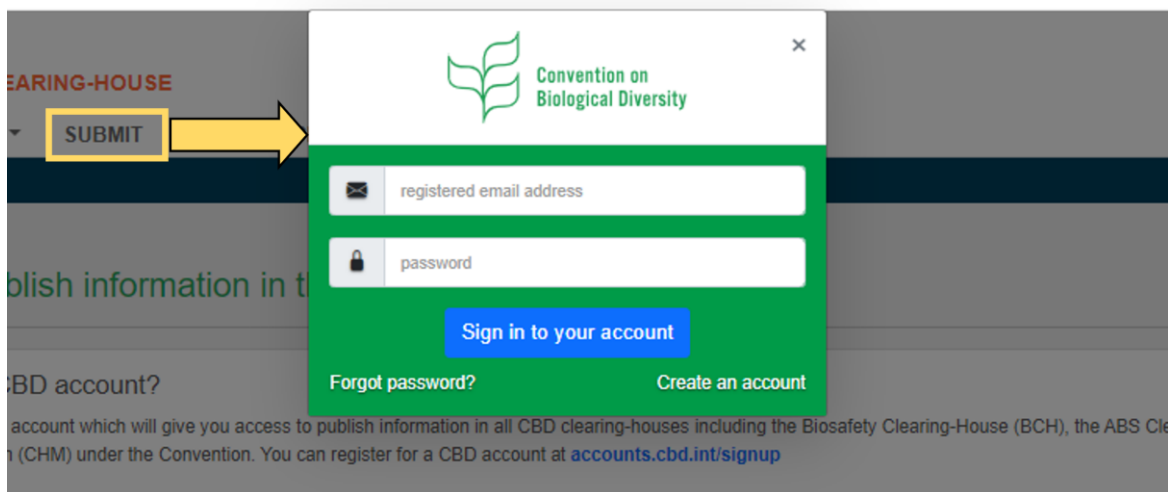




*Figure 42. Submit*

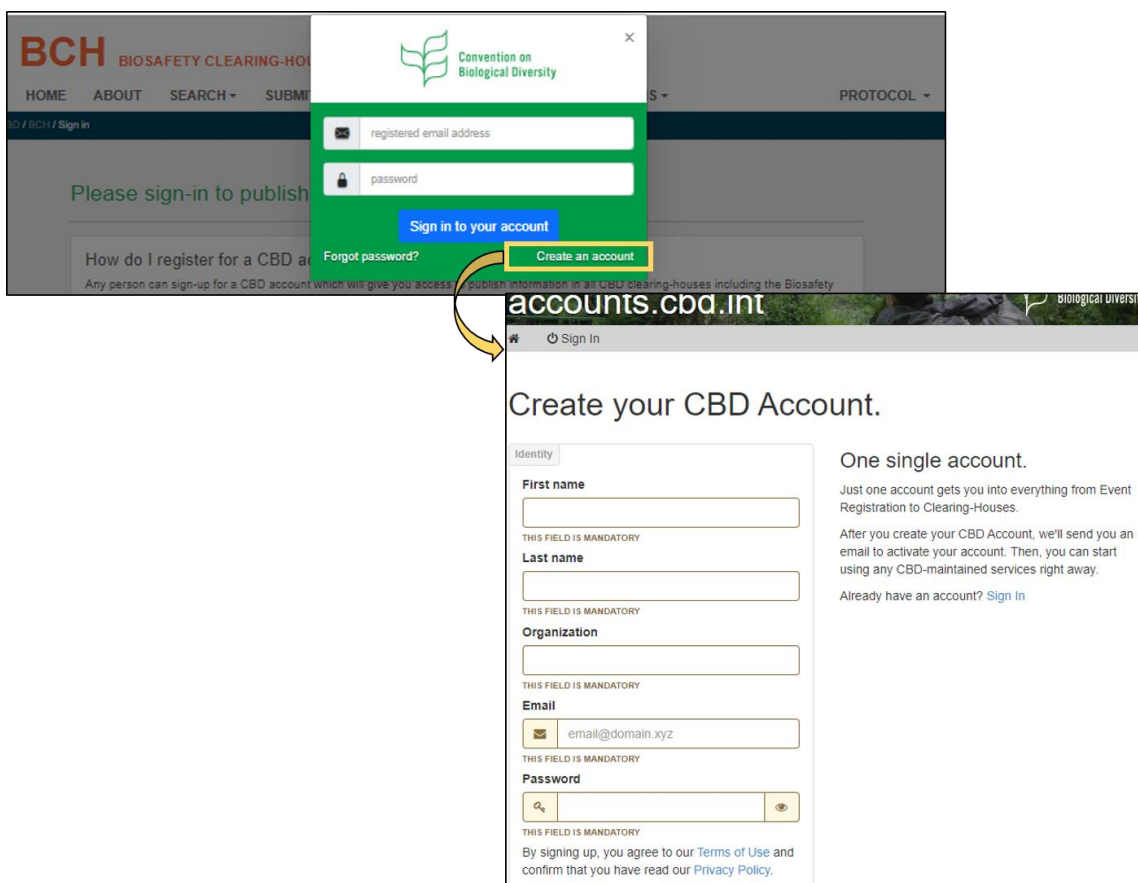
In the introductory page of this section there is relevant information that will tell you how to create an account, how to recover your password if you forgot it, the most suitable browsers to navigate in the BCH, and a contact in case you have problems that you cannot solve.

When you click on **SUBMIT** the following box will be displayed:



*Figure 43. Sign-in to your account.*

If you already have a CBD account, enter your email and password to access the Submit menu. If not, click on **Create an account** so you can be registered and you can publish in the BCH.



*Figure 44. Create a CBD Account*

It is important to mention that there are two types of records that can be published in the BCH: National Records and Reference Records. National records can only be published by BCH National Focal Points. Reference records can be submitted by any BCH registered user but must be validated by the SCBD before they can become public.

Consult the specific Manual on how to publish in the BCH for details on how to submit information to the BCH.

### 3.5. Country Profiles

This section provides information about Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, where you will find data about the National Records (National Focal Points, Competent National Authority, Regulations, Decisions, etc.) that each Party has submitted to the BCH. You will also find information submitted by Non-Parties.

Selecting this section displays the world map where you can display each country's information by clicking over the country of your interest.

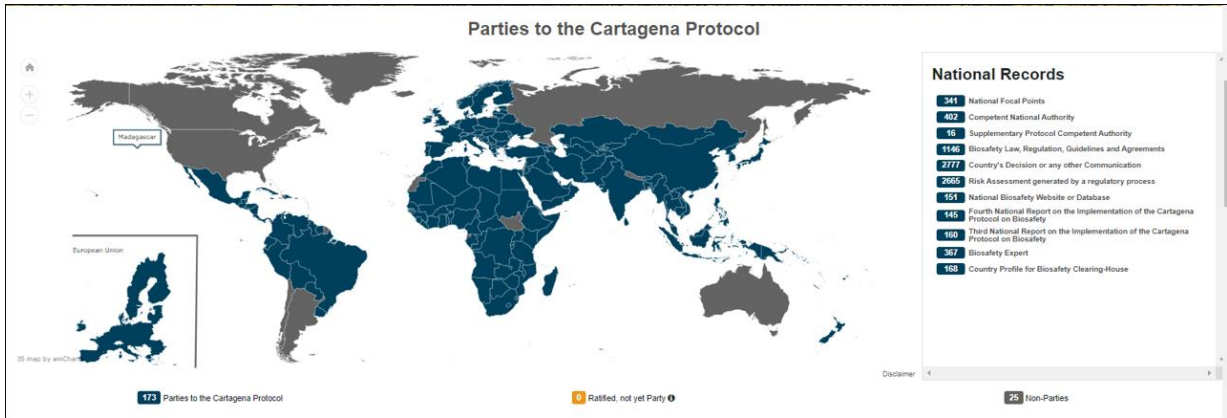


Figure 45. Map showing Parties to the Cartagena Protocol in dark green

Further down in this page you will find an overview of the records that each country has submitted to the BCH. We invite you to the **“Take Country Profiles Tour”** (Figure 46), so you can be acquainted with the different sections of this page and define what kind of information you need, and which filters will help you find it.

? TAKE COUNTRY PROFILES TOUR

	NFP	CNA	SPCA	LAW	DEC	RA	NDB	NR4	NR3	NR2	NR1	NR0	EXP	BCP
1 Afghanistan PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Albania PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, PARTY TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
3 Algeria PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
4 Angola PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
5 Antigua and Barbuda PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
6 Armenia PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
7 Austria PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, PARTY TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
8 Azerbaijan PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1

Figure 46. Country Profiles



Figure 47. Take the Country Profiles Tour - Example 1

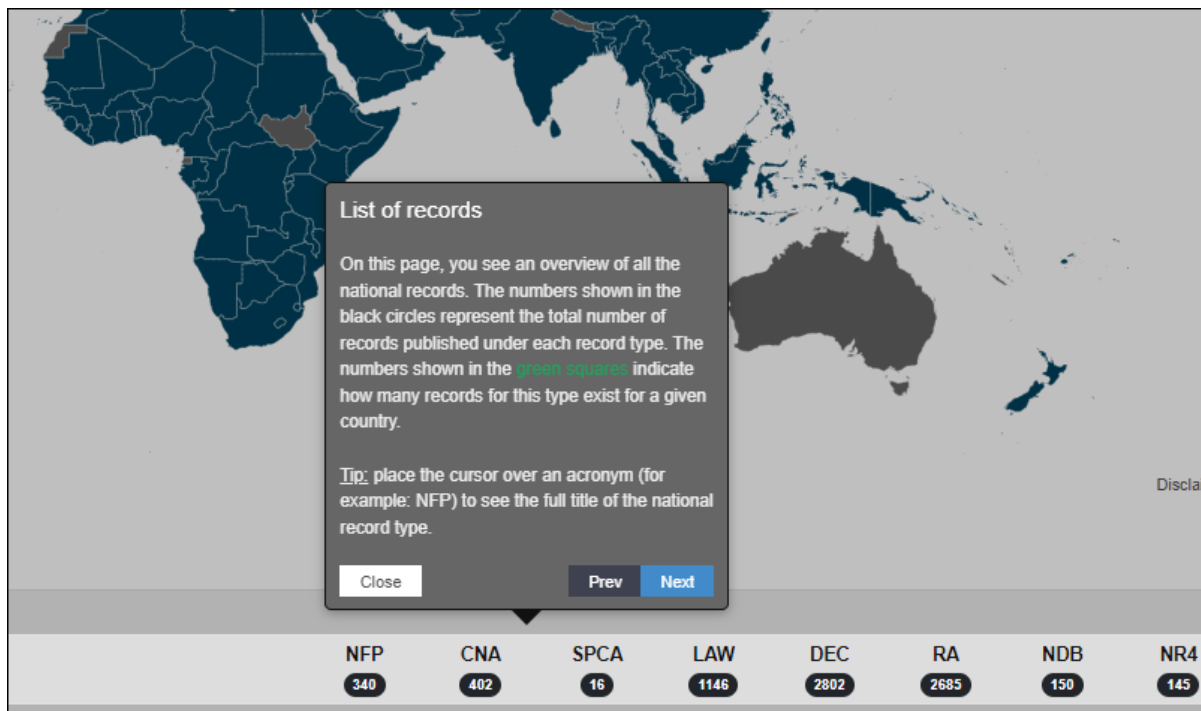
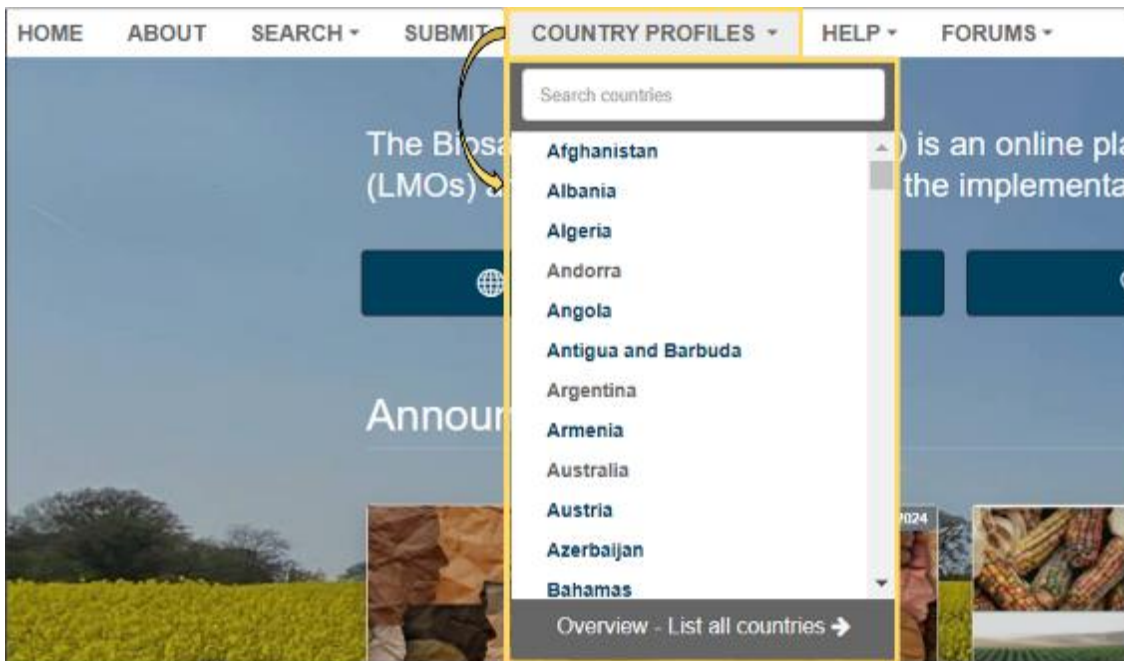


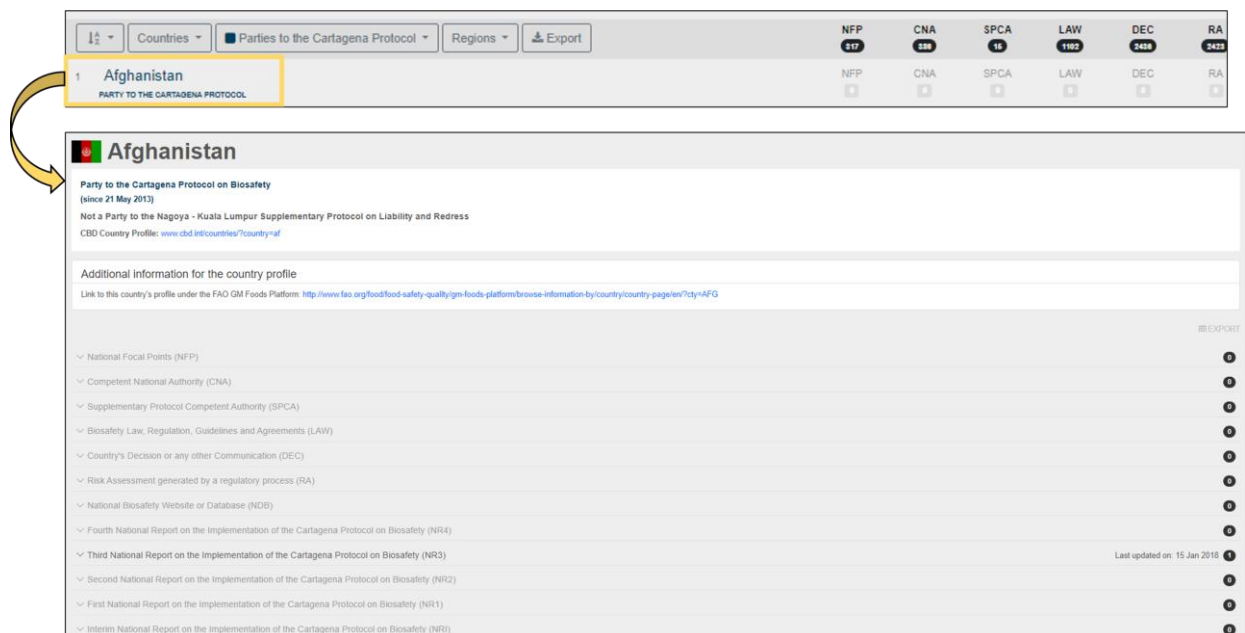
Figure 48. Take the Country Profiles Tour - Example 2

Also, when you put the cursor over **COUNTRY PROFILES** you will see a drop-down menu where you can see the list of countries, and in the Search box you can type the name of the country you are searching for.



*Figure 49. Country Profiles from Navigation Bar*

In order to visualize the information contained in each country profile we have chosen Afghanistan as an example. If you choose this country, you will see that it has two national records (Third National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and Country Profile for Biosafety Clearing-House). You can enter each of these records to find detailed information about them.



*Figure 50. Example of Specific Country Profile - Afghanistan*

### 3.6. Help

The BCH offers various Help tools to assist with website navigation and performing various tasks. The Help tools (materials) are accessible through the **HELP** menu, which provides access to the following sections: Knowledge Base, FAQs, Training Materials, Training Site, and Contact.



Figure 51. Help in the Navigation Bar

#### 3.6.1. Knowledge Base

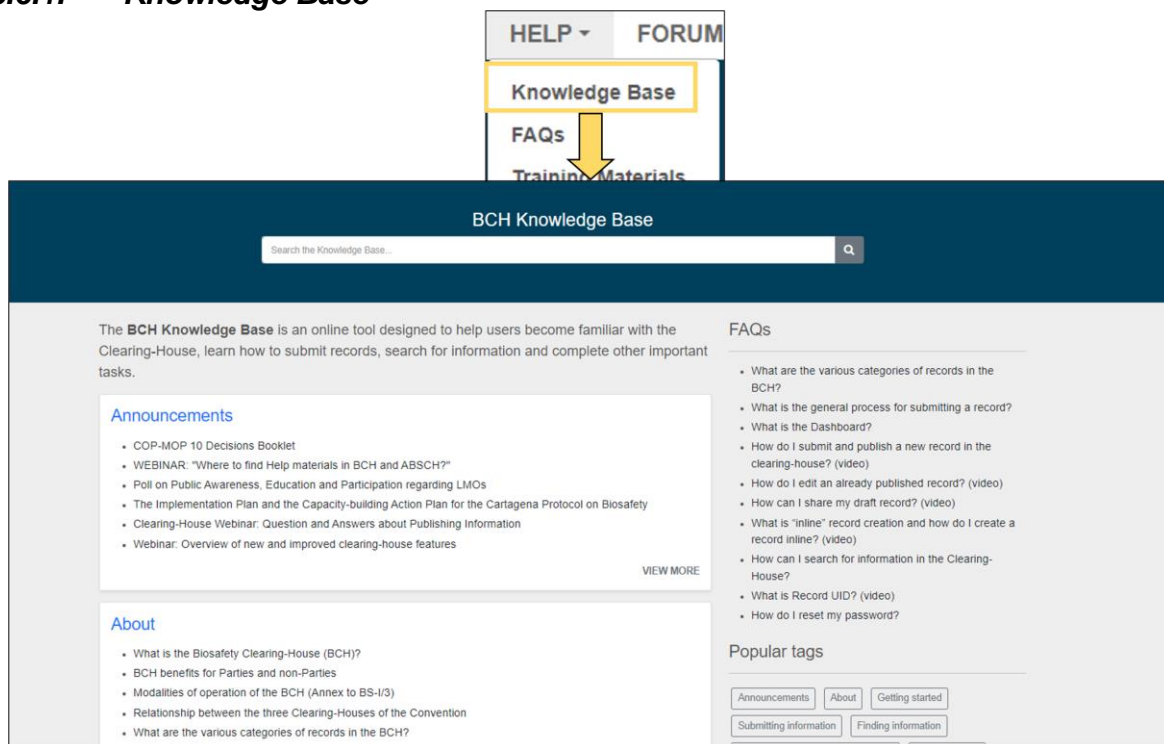
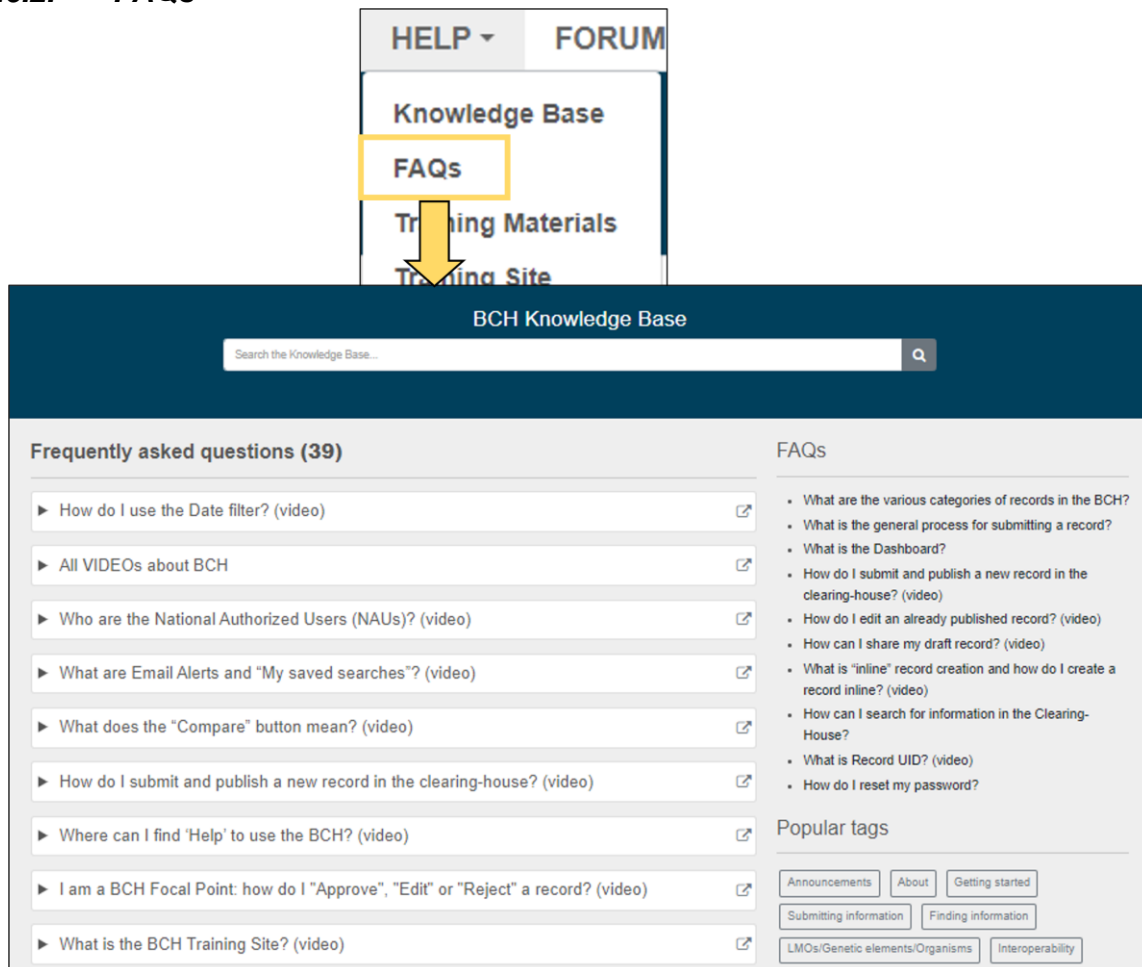


Figure 52. Knowledge Base from Help

Through this section you will access the **BCH Knowledge Base**, which is an online tool designed to help users become familiar with the Biosafety Clearing-House, learn how to submit records, search for information, and complete other important tasks. Section "About" above provides more details on the subject.

### 3.6.2. FAQs



*Figure 53. FAQs from Help*

In this section you will find answers to Frequently Asked Questions. You will also see some videos to guide you to perform various tasks in the BCH, such as submitting records.

As an example, we have chosen the FAQ: "What are the various categories of records in the BCH?" If you choose this question, an answer is displayed which includes the different categories of records: national, reference, and SCBD.

FAQs

- What are the various categories of records in the BCH?
- What is the general process for submitting a record?
- What is the Dashboard?

### What are the various categories of records in the BCH?

📅 23 Nov 2021

Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol sets out specific information that Parties must make available through the BCH. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (BS COP MOP 1) adopted a decision that indicates the categories of information that Parties must register in the BCH.

The information currently available in the BCH is organized into three categories:

- a. **National Records** which are submitted by Governments as mandated by Article 20 of the Protocol;
- b. **Reference Records** which are submitted by general registered BCH users; and
- c. **SCBD records** which are managed by the Secretariat.

---

**NATIONAL RECORDS:**

National Records are published by Governments and include national information relevant for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol as well as information Parties are obliged to provide in accordance with the Protocol. Prior to being made publicly available in the BCH, all National Records records are validated and published by the BCH National Focal Points.

National Records are:

- **National Focal Points (NFPs):**
  - Cartagena Protocol NFPs (responsible for liaising with the Secretariat);
  - Biosafety Clearing-House NFPs (responsible for publishing information in the BCH); and
  - Emergency Measures Contact Points (responsible for receiving notifications under Article 17).
- **Competent National Authorities (CNA):** Entities designated by governments to perform the administrative functions required by the Protocol (Article 19).

#### Relevant articles

- Who are the National Authorized Users (NAUs)? (video)
- How can I search for information in the Clearing-House?
- What are the various categories of records in the BCH?
- What are LMO quick-links? (video)
- What is Record UID? (video)
- What is the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)?

---

#### Popular tags

Announcements
About
Getting started

Submitting information
Finding information

LMOs/Genetic elements/Organisms
Interoperability

Informal Advisory Committee (IAC)
Getting help

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*Figure 54. Example of a FAQ*

It is noteworthy that through this section you have access to all the help **VIDEOS**, created in-house by the Secretariat, which describe different features and functionalities of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).



Getting help (8)

All VIDEOS about BCH 16 Aug 2023  
 Compilation of short videos describing different features of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).

---


**All VIDEOS about BCH**  
 16 Aug 2023

This page contains a compilation of all the help videos, created in-house by the Secretariat, which describe different features and functionalities of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).


The videos below can also be found in the respective help articles of the Knowledge Base. At present, the videos are available in English only.

*NOTE: More videos will be added to this page as they are created.*

**Help Tools (Materials)**

Video Subject	Video Links (click below)
	
The BCH offers various help tools to assist with website navigation and performing various tasks.	<a href="#">Knowledge Base</a> <a href="#">FAQs</a> <a href="#">Contextual help</a> <a href="#">TOURS</a> <a href="#">VLE</a> <a href="#">Chat</a> <a href="#">Training Site</a>
The help tools (materials) are accessible through the HELP menu.	

**"Submit" interface**

Video Subject	Video Links (click below)
This video describes where you can find virtual self-explanatory tours that walk users through a page, identifying key functions and capacities of the respective sections.	

**Relevant articles**

- Video recording of the Webinar on the new BCH platform: launch of the new BCH
- What is the BCH Training Site? (video)
- Where can I find 'Help' to use the BCH? (video)
- Training Site: User Roles (video)
- Contact us
- VIDEO recordings of webinars on clearing-houses

**Popular tags**

Announcements About Getting started

Submitting information Finding information

LMOs/Genetic elements/Organisms Interoperability

Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) Getting help

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Figure 55. All Videos about BCH

### 3.6.3. Training Materials

HELP - FORUM

- Knowledge Base
- FAQs
- Training Materials**
- Training Site
- Contact us




Figure 56. The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), <https://bch3-vle.unep.org>

By choosing this section, you will enter the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) page: <https://bch3-vle.unep.org/> where you will have access to the Biosafety Clearing House Education Materials, i.e., : a) New BCH Platform Training Videos, b) Public

Biosafety Clearing House Training Materials, and c) Public Biosafety Clearing House Webinars. Several of these educational materials can be found in the different languages of the United Nations: English, Spanish, French, and Russian.



Figure 57. Educational Materials found in the VLE <https://bch3-vle.unep.org/>

### 3.6.4. Training Site

The **BCH Training Site** is a mirror copy of the official BCH and has been implemented to help users familiarize themselves with the various functionalities of the BCH. It can be accessed through the **Help** tab on the top navigation bar. In order to access the site, registered users must sign in with their e-mail and password.

Once signed in, users may practice submitting records, **for training purposes only**, as (i) a general registered user, (ii) a BCH National Focal Point (BCH-NFP), (iii) Cartagena Notional Focal Point (CPB-NFP), or (iv) a National Authorized User (NAU).

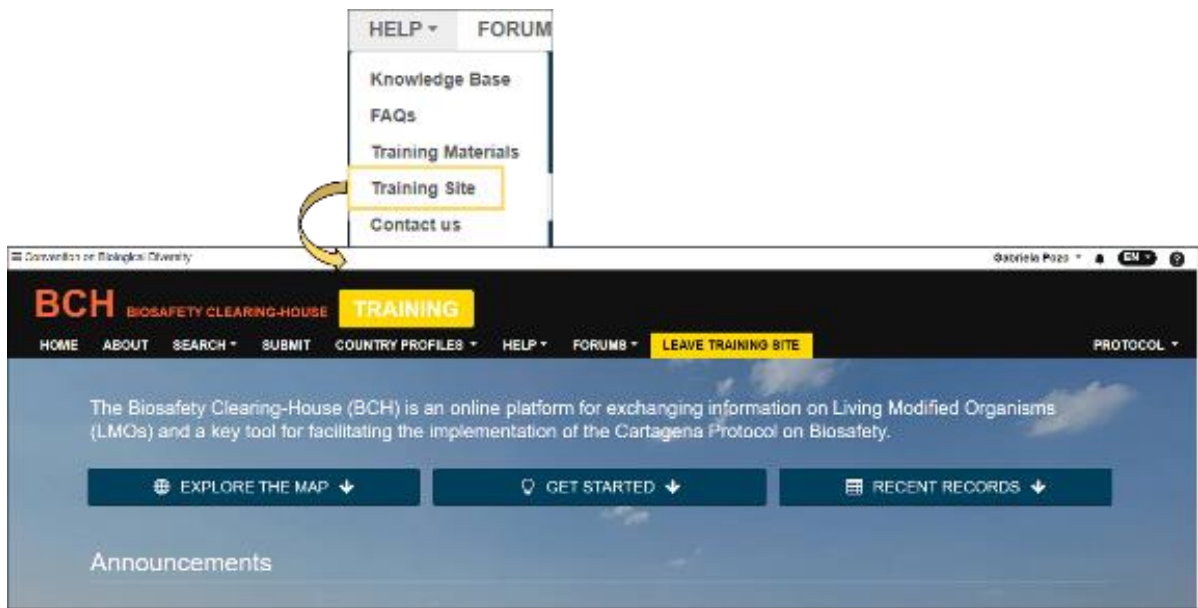


Figure 58. BCH Training Site

The **BCH Training Site Dashboard** is your personal workspace and is accessible through the **Submit** page.

The yellow labels on this page indicate that you are on the **Training Site**, and that the information you submit through this page is for training purposes only and will not be published on the actual BCH.

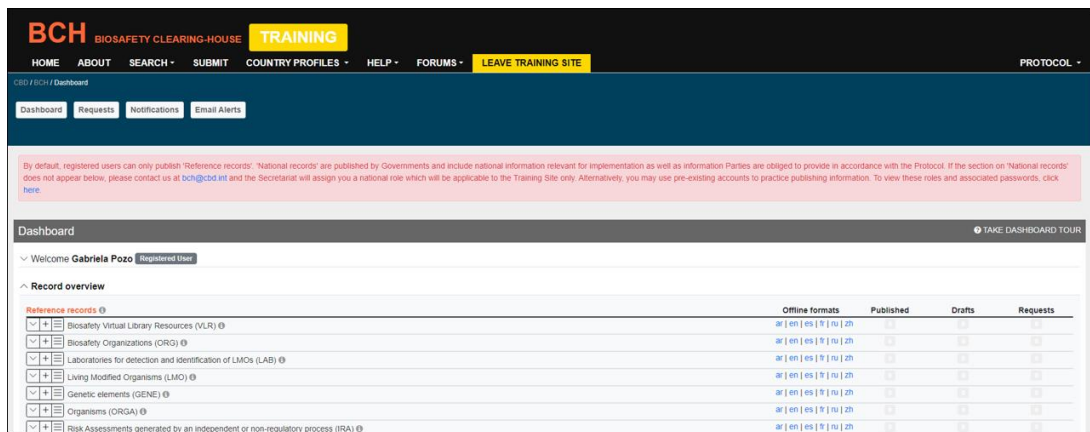


Figure 59. Training Site Example

Please review the specific Manual on this topic for details on how to practice on submitting information to the BCH using the Training Site.

### 3.6.5. Contact us

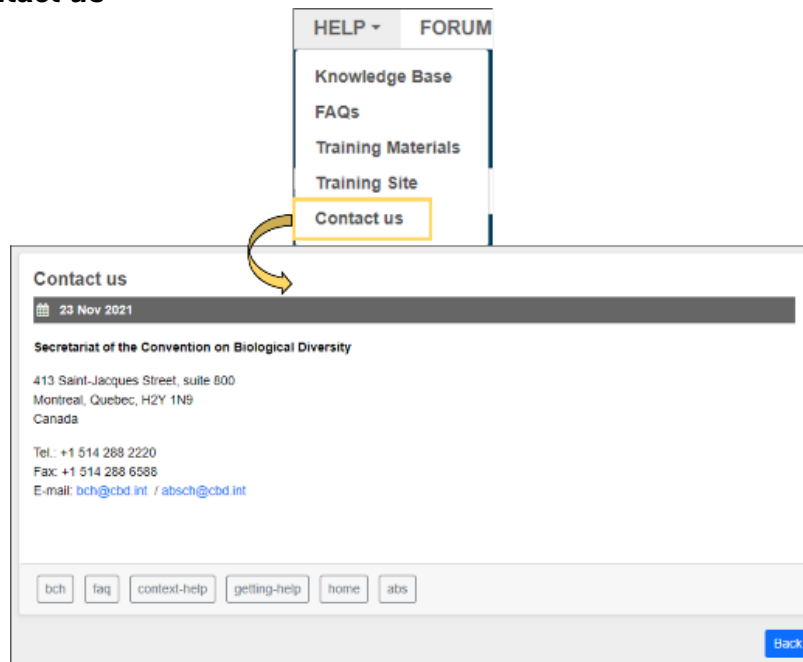


Figure 60. Contact us.

This section displays the contact information of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in case you need to get in touch with them.

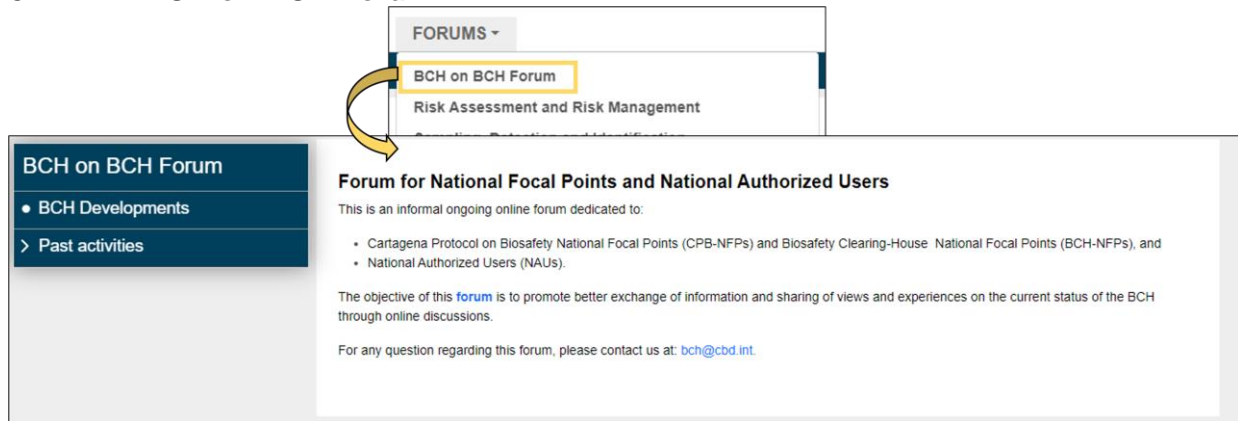
### 3.7. Forums

In this section you will find the different forums held on various relevant topics of the Cartagena Protocol.



Figure 61. Forums

### 3.7.1. **BCH on BCH Forum**



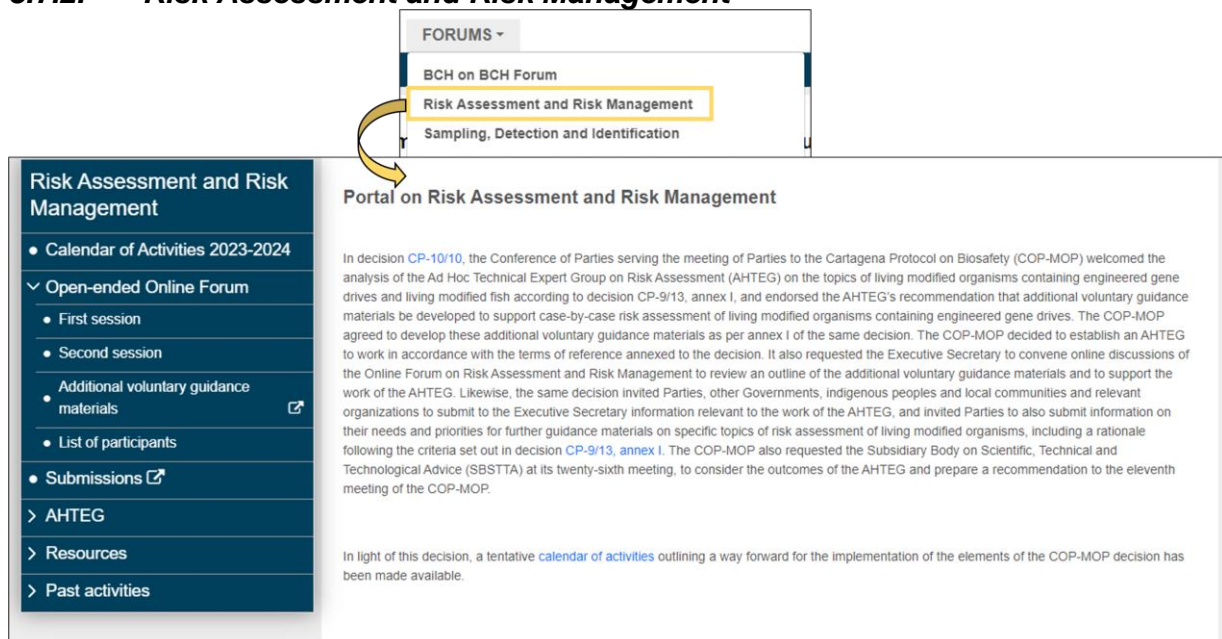
*Figure 62. BCH on BCH Forum*

This is an informal ongoing online forum dedicated to:

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety National Focal Points (CPB-NFPs) and Biosafety Clearing-House National Focal Points (BCH-NFPs), and National Authorized Users (NAUs).

The objective of this forum is to promote better exchange of information and sharing of views and experiences on the current status of the BCH through online discussions.

### 3.7.2. **Risk Assessment and Risk Management**

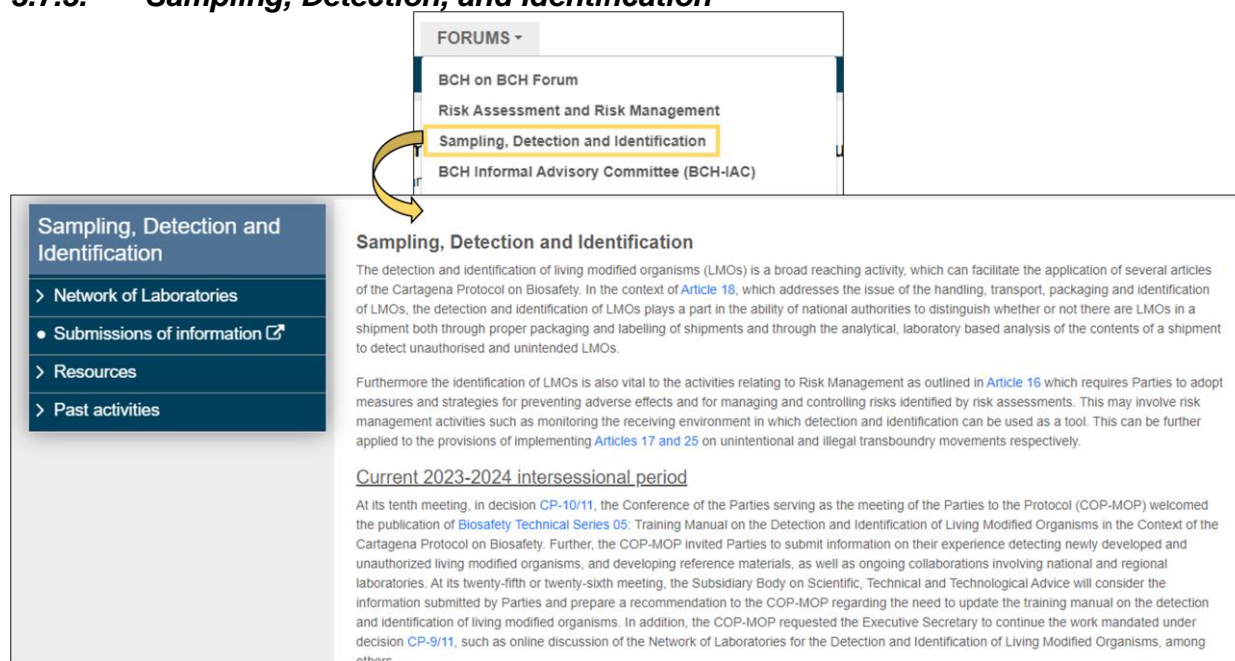


*Figure 63. Risk Assessment and Risk Management*

This forum is established to comply with the decision CP-10/10, where the Conference of the Parties serving as a Meeting Of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) agreed to develop additional voluntary guidance materials to support case-by-case risk assessment of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) containing engineered gene drives in accordance with Annex III of the Cartagena

Protocol. In this page you will find all the material and activities carried out within this topic.

### 3.7.3. **Sampling, Detection, and Identification**



The image shows a screenshot of a web page. At the top, there is a 'FORUMS' dropdown menu with the following items: 'BCH on BCH Forum', 'Risk Assessment and Risk Management', 'Sampling, Detection and Identification' (highlighted with a yellow box and a yellow arrow pointing to the main content area), and 'BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC)'. Below the menu is a sidebar with a blue header 'Sampling, Detection and Identification' and four menu items: 'Network of Laboratories', 'Submissions of information' (with an external link icon), 'Resources', and 'Past activities'. The main content area has a blue header 'Sampling, Detection and Identification' and contains the following text:

The detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) is a broad reaching activity, which can facilitate the application of several articles of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In the context of [Article 18](#), which addresses the issue of the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs, the detection and identification of LMOs plays a part in the ability of national authorities to distinguish whether or not there are LMOs in a shipment both through proper packaging and labelling of shipments and through the analytical, laboratory based analysis of the contents of a shipment to detect unauthorised and unintended LMOs.

Furthermore the identification of LMOs is also vital to the activities relating to Risk Management as outlined in [Article 16](#) which requires Parties to adopt measures and strategies for preventing adverse effects and for managing and controlling risks identified by risk assessments. This may involve risk management activities such as monitoring the receiving environment in which detection and identification can be used as a tool. This can be further applied to the provisions of implementing [Articles 17 and 25](#) on unintentional and illegal transboundary movements respectively.

Current 2023-2024 intersessional period

At its tenth meeting, in decision [CP-10/11](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) welcomed the publication of [Biosafety Technical Series 05: Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#). Further, the COP-MOP invited Parties to submit information on their experience detecting newly developed and unauthorised living modified organisms, and developing reference materials, as well as ongoing collaborations involving national and regional laboratories. At its twenty-fifth or twenty-sixth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will consider the information submitted by Parties and prepare a recommendation to the COP-MOP regarding the need to update the training manual on the detection and identification of living modified organisms. In addition, the COP-MOP requested the Executive Secretary to continue the work mandated under decision [CP-9/11](#), such as online discussion of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms, among others.

**Figure 64. Sampling, Detection, and Identification**

On this page you will find relevant information about the online discussions that have been held on LMO Sampling, Detection, and Identification. It is important to highlight the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories and the resources that can be found on this page such as the Biosafety Technical Series 05 (Figure 65) and the Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Figure 66).

The image shows a navigation menu on the left with the following items: "Sampling, Detection and Identification", "> Network of Laboratories", "• Submissions of information ↗", "v Resources", "• Biosafety Technical Series 05 ↗" (highlighted with a yellow box), "• Technical Tools and guidance", and "> Past activities". A yellow arrow points from the highlighted item to the main content area.

The main content area is titled "BIOSAFETY VIRTUAL LIBRARY RESOURCES (VLR)" and includes a header with the identifier "BCH-VLR-SCBD-260177-3", a PDF icon, a Print icon, and language options: AR, EN (selected), ZH, FR, ES, RU. It also features "Share", "Edit", and "Compare" icons. The page is marked as "LAST UPDATED: 10 NOV 2022".

**General Information**

Title: Biosafety Technical Series 05: Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety EN

Type of resource: Capacity-building related, Manual, Technical guide

Reference to the authoring organization(s): SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (SCBD) BCH-ORG-SCBD-101441-1 | UN and other specialized agency of the UN Common System

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800  
Montreal, QC  
H2Y 1N9, Canada  
Phone: +1 514 288 2220  
Fax: +1 514 288 6588  
Email: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)  
Website: <https://www.cbd.int>

Publication date: 2022-04 EN

Figure 65. Biosafety Technical Series 05

Publication date  
2022-04

Access to the resource(s)  
Link to the resource(s)

[Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety \[ English \]](#)  
[كتيب التدريب عن الكائنات الحية المحورة وتحديد هويتها من سياق بروتوكول قرطاجنة للسلامة الأحيائية \[ Arabic \]](#)  
[在《卡塔赫纳生物安全议定书》背景下 检测与识别活性生物体 培训手册 \[ Chinese \]](#)  
[Учебное пособие по обнаружению и идентификации живых измененных организмов в контексте Картахенского протокола по биобезопасности.pdf \[ Russian \]](#)  
[Manual de capacitación sobre Seguridad de la Biotecnología.pdf \[ Spanish \]](#)  
[Manuel de formation sur la prévention des risques biotechnologiques.pdf \[ French \]](#)

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

BIOSAFETY TECHNICAL SERIES 05

Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Convention on Biological Diversity UN Environment Programme

Figure 66. Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

### 3.7.4. BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC)

FORUMS -

- BCH on BCH Forum
- Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- Sampling, Detection and Identification
- BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC)**
- Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- UNEP Regional Advisors Forum

**BCH Informal Advisory Committee (IAC)**

- BCH-IAC Forum
- List of BCH-IAC Members
- Past activities
  - BCH-IAC Forum 2013-2014

**Mandate of the BCH-IAC**

In its [Decision BS-I/3](#), the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted the [Modalities of Operation](#) of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). Section 5 of the modalities of operation states: "The Secretariat may seek assistance from an informal advisory committee, constituted and coordinated by the Executive Secretary in a transparent manner, with a particular focus on providing guidance with respect to resolution of technical issues associated with the ongoing development of the Biosafety Clearing-House."

The BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC) adopted, at its first meeting, its [Operational Procedures](#).

The participants to the 4th IAC meeting, held in Montreal on 17-18 November 2008, recommended to the Secretariat to establish a BCH-IAC discussion forum to maintain an open line of communication among the committee's members. The forum is accessible to BCH-IAC members only.

**Note:** Information about all the [meetings of the BCH-IAC](#) can be found [here](#).

Figure 67. BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC)

This is a forum for the BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC), a discussion forum to maintain an open line of communication among the committee's members. The forum is accessible to BCH-IAC members only.



### 3.7.5. *Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

**FORUMS -**

- BCH on BCH Forum
- Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- Sampling, Detection and Identification
- BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC)
- Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**
- UNEP Regional Advisors Forum

**Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

- Online discussion
- List of Liaison Group members

#### Introduction to the online discussions of the Liaison Group

Discussions will be held from 7 to 21 February 2024.

Participation is restricted to members of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol.

#### Background

##### Past involvement of the Liaison Group in the development of Target 17

In [decision CP-9/7](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety expanded the mandate and scope of the Liaison Group and adopted new Terms of Reference for the Group, renaming it "Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety". The COP-MOP requested the Liaison Group to contribute to the development of the biosafety component in what was later adopted as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Further to decision CP-9/7, the Liaison Group, at its thirteenth meeting, held in 2019, developed draft text for a biosafety target, sub-targets and indicators. The text of the biosafety component was transmitted by the co-Chairs of the Liaison Group to the co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to facilitate its inclusion in the zero draft of the global biodiversity framework (see [CBD/CP/LG/2019/1/6, Annex I](#)).

The work of the Liaison Group is still reflected in the list of complementary indicators adopted by the COP in decision 15/5, which largely follow the indicators suggested by the Liaison Group for the biosafety target and sub-targets it developed for inclusion in the zero draft of the KMGBF.

*Figure 68. Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

In this page you will find information about the online discussions that have been carried out by the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in accordance with the mandate established in the COP-MOP decisions. Participation in this forum is restricted to members of this group.

### 3.7.6. *UNEP Regional Advisors Forum*

**FORUMS -**

- BCH on BCH Forum
- Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- Sampling, Detection and Identification
- BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC)
- Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- UNEP Regional Advisors Forum**

**UNEP-GEF Regional Advisors**

- Current forum
- > Past activities

#### Online Forum for UNEP-GEF Regional Advisors

This is an informal ongoing online forum open to all Regional Advisors (RAs) of the UNEP-GEF BCH Project with the objective to promote better exchange of information and sharing of views and experiences on the current status of the BCH through online discussions.

Access to this portal is limited to UNEP-GEF BCH Regional Advisors.

For any questions regarding this forum, please contact us at: [bch@cbd.int](mailto:bch@cbd.int).

*Figure 69. UNEP Regional Advisors Forum*

This is an informal ongoing online forum open to all Regional Advisors (RAs) of the UNEP-GEF BCH Project, with the objective of promoting better exchange of information and sharing of views and experiences on the current status of the BCH through online discussions. Access to this portal is limited to UNEP-GEF BCH Regional Advisors.

### 3.8. Protocol

When you place the cursor over **PROTOCOL**, a drop-down menu appears where you can find the access to the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol.

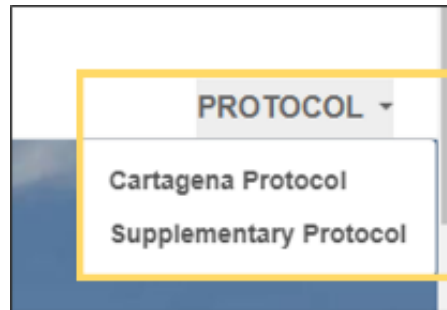


Figure 70. Links to the Cartagena Protocol and Supplementary Protocol of the CBD from the Navigation Bar

#### 3.8.1. Cartagena Protocol



Figure 71. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Clicking on **Cartagena Protocol** takes you to the Cartagena Protocol page on the Convention on Biological Diversity website. **The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** to

the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transportation, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. It was adopted on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003.

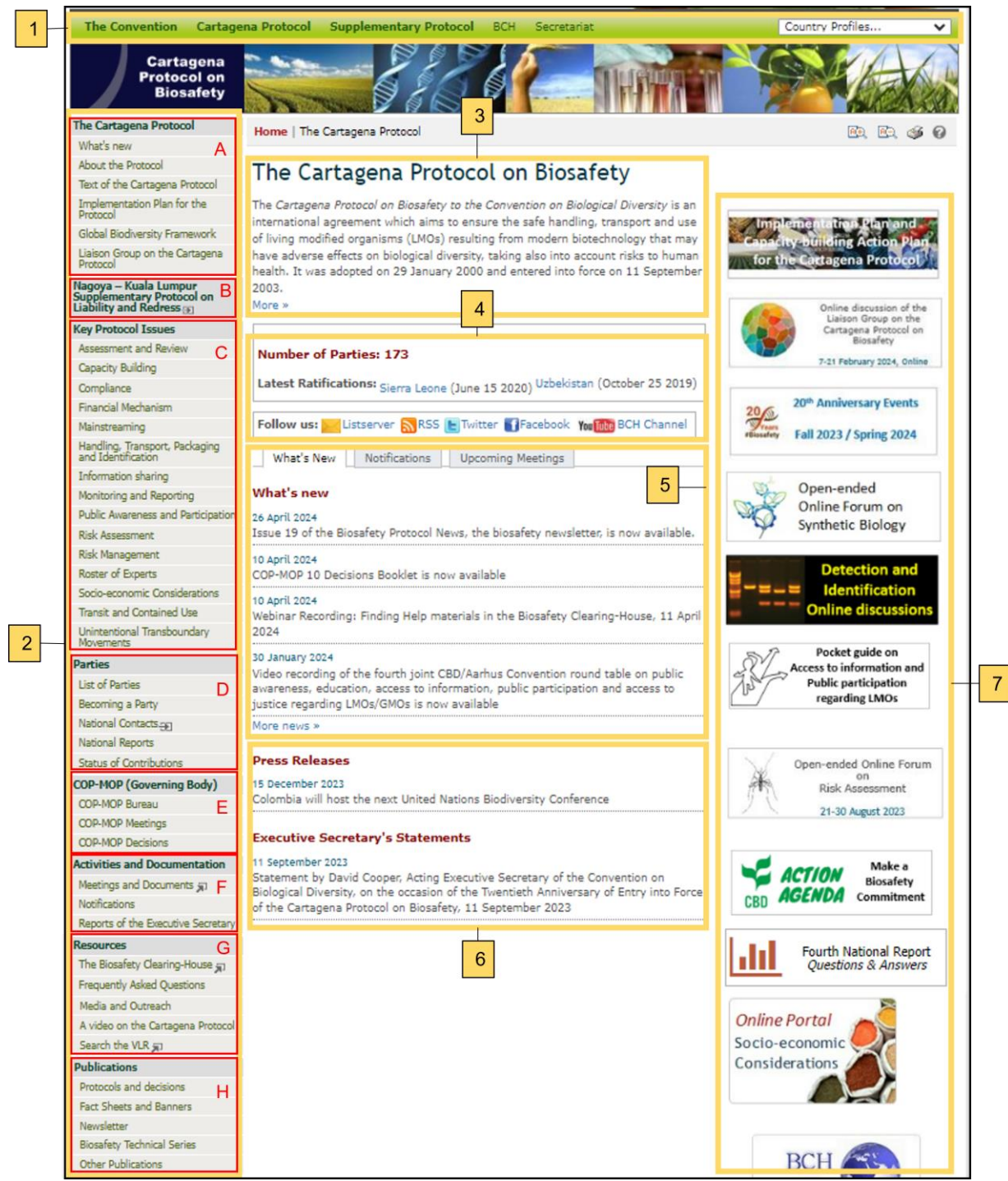


Figure 72. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Homepage

On the Protocol page (Figure 72) you will find:

7. A **navigation bar** with the following sections: The Convention, the Cartagena Protocol, the Supplementary Protocol, the BCH, and the Secretariat. If you enter any of these sections, you will find specific information about each.

On the far right of this bar you will find the **Country Profiles**, which contains a drop-down menu where you can select the country you are interested in finding information about.

8. In the menu of the left bar you will find specific information about the Cartagena Protocol:

- a) *The **Cartagena Protocol**, where you will find information on various topics of this international agreement including the text of the Protocol (all articles and in the different official languages of the United Nations).*
- b) ***Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Protocol on Liability and Redress Supplementary to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**: by clicking on this section, you will have access to all the information about this supplementary protocol.*
- c) ***Key Protocol Issues**: in this section you will find a list of key issues of the Cartagena Protocol, such as Capacity Building, Compliance, Public Awareness and Participation, Risk Assessment, Roster of Experts, and Socio-economic Considerations, among others. If you click on any of these topics, you will find detailed information about the work and activities that have been carried out within each of the thematic areas.*
- d) ***Parties**: In this section you will find the list of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, their National Contacts and National Reports, and all relevant information on the status of their contributions to the implementation of the Protocol.*
- e) ***COP-MOP (Governing Body)**: this section gives you access to all information about COP-MOP Bureau and COP-MOP Meetings and Decisions.*
- f) ***Activities and Documentation**: In this section you will find the calendar of upcoming Cartagena Protocol meetings, SCBD notifications, and the Executive Secretary's reports.*
- g) ***Resources**: Through this section, among others, you will be able to access the BCH, the FAQs, and the VLR (Biosafety Virtual Library Resources).*
- h) ***Publications**: In this section you will find, among others, the booklets of the Protocols and Decisions, Fact Sheets and Banners, the Biosafety Protocol Newsletter, and the Biosafety Technical Series.*

9. The Home Page of the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** (Figure 72) displays information on how this Protocol was established, and related issues. Clicking on "**more...**" will take you to the "**About the Protocol**" page (Figure 73), where you can find its History, The Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) Process, the Entry into Force of the Protocol and its Timeline until its entry into force.

10. The actual number of **Parties** to the Cartagena Protocol is displayed, along with the latest countries which have ratified the Protocol.

You will also find links to the different social networks, such as Facebook, YouTube, and others, which you can follow to stay informed about news and activities of the Cartagena Protocol.

11. In this section you will find three tabs:

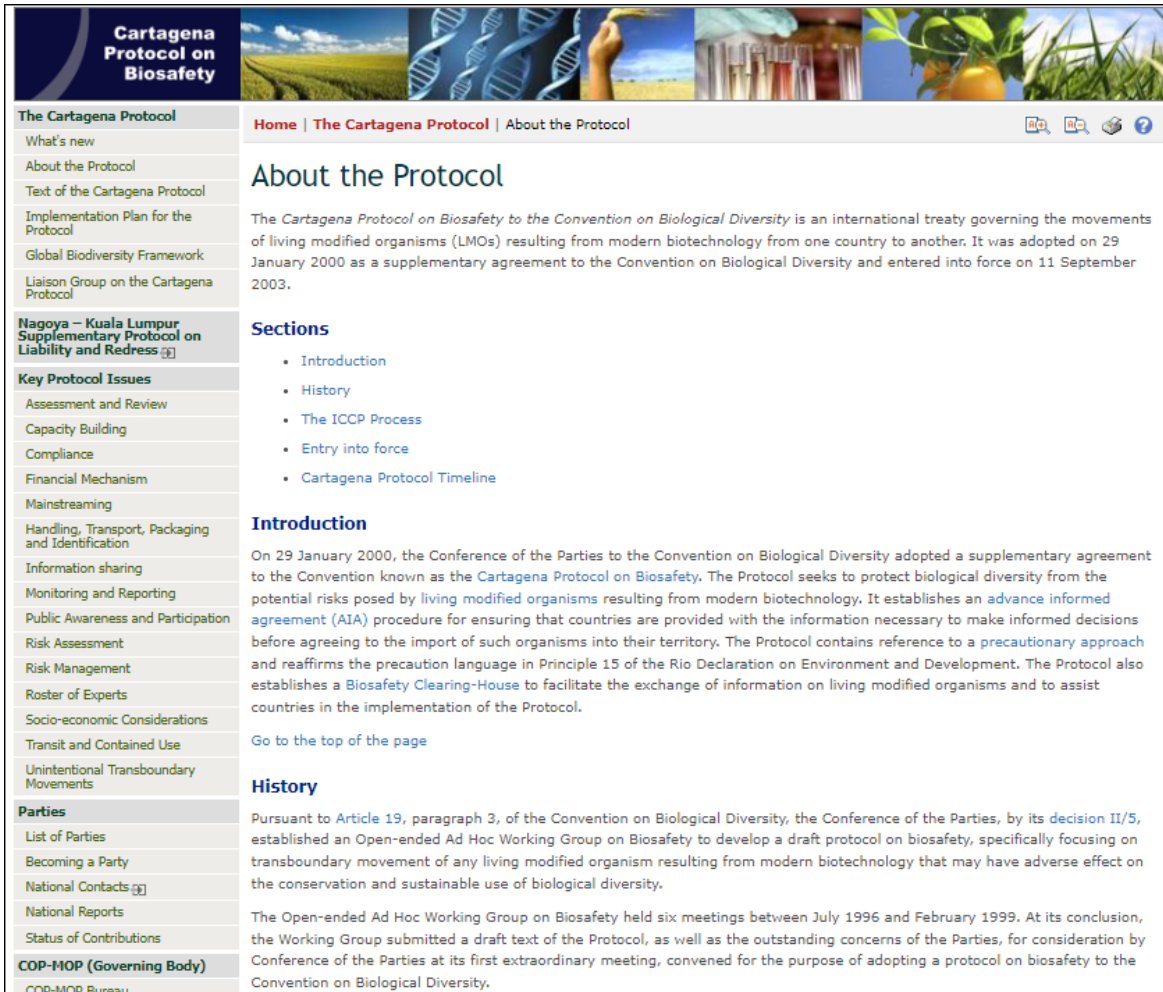
**11.1. What's new:** here you will have access to news on different topics and activities of the Cartagena Protocol. The news is displayed starting with the most recent one;

**11.2. Notifications** sent by the SCBD on different topics and activities of the Protocol, likewise these are displayed from the most recent one;

**11.3. and Upcoming Meetings**, where you will find information on the next meetings to be held under this agreement.

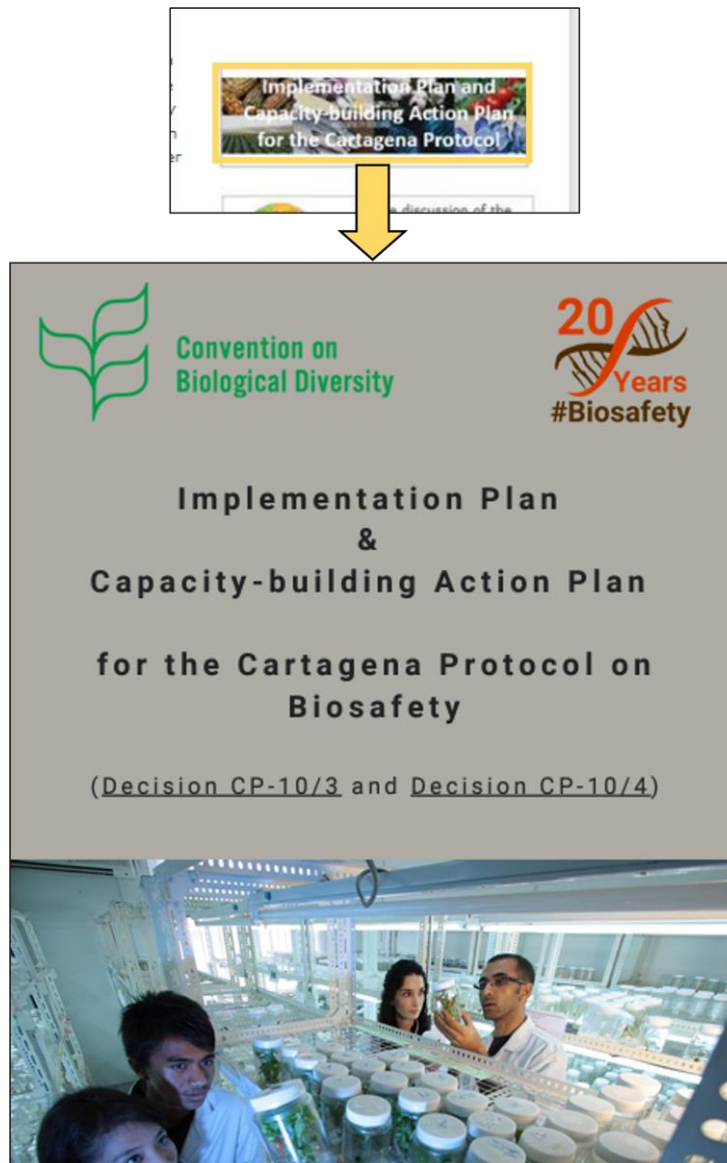
12. This space includes **Press Releases** and **Executive Secretary's Statements** that are made within the context of the Cartagena Protocol.

13. The right-hand menu contains a series of **boxes** through which you can access different aspects of the Cartagena Protocol, such as documents or forums. An example of which is the Implementation Plan and the Capacity Building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol (Figure 74), or information on online discussion forums, such as the Open Online Forum on Synthetic Biology (Figure 75).

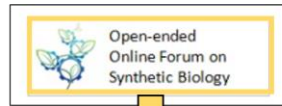


The screenshot shows the website for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The header features the title 'Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety' and a navigation bar with 'Home | The Cartagena Protocol | About the Protocol'. Below the header is a banner image with a DNA double helix and laboratory glassware. The main content area is titled 'About the Protocol' and includes a paragraph explaining the protocol's purpose and adoption date. A 'Sections' list includes 'Introduction', 'History', 'The ICCP Process', 'Entry into force', and 'Cartagena Protocol Timeline'. The 'Introduction' section provides a detailed overview of the protocol's goals and procedures. The 'History' section describes the development process from 1996 to 1999. A left-hand sidebar contains a comprehensive menu of topics, including 'What's new', 'About the Protocol', 'Text of the Cartagena Protocol', 'Implementation Plan for the Protocol', 'Global Biodiversity Framework', 'Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol', 'Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress', 'Key Protocol Issues', 'Assessment and Review', 'Capacity Building', 'Compliance', 'Financial Mechanism', 'Mainstreaming', 'Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification', 'Information sharing', 'Monitoring and Reporting', 'Public Awareness and Participation', 'Risk Assessment', 'Risk Management', 'Roster of Experts', 'Socio-economic Considerations', 'Transit and Contained Use', 'Unintentional Transboundary Movements', 'Parties', 'List of Parties', 'Becoming a Party', 'National Contacts', 'National Reports', 'Status of Contributions', 'COP-MOP (Governing Body)', and 'COP-MOP Bureau'.

*Figure 73. About the Protocol*



*Figure 74. Implementation Plan & Capacity-building Action Plan for the Protocol*



**SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY // OPEN-ENDED ONLINE FORUM NOVEMBER 2023 WEDNESDAY // 11.22.2023

## Open-ended Online Forum for additional information gathering

In decision 15.31, the Conference of the Parties (COP) established a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent developments in synthetic biology. This process should consist of (a) information gathering; (b) Compilation, organization and synthesis of information; (c) Assessment and (d) Reporting on outcomes. To support this process, the COP established the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on synthetic biology and requested the Executive Secretary to convene this online forum to support the work of the multidisciplinary AHTEG.

The first meeting of the multidisciplinary AHTEG was held from 11 to 14 July 2023 and a process for the 2023-2024 intersessional period consists of both multidisciplinary expert-driven submissions by members of the multidisciplinary Expert Group and a literature review to be conducted by the Secretariat. The process can be found in Annex I of the report of the meeting of the multidisciplinary Expert Group: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/STN/BI/C-AHTEG-2023-01>.

Following a multidisciplinary-expert driven submission process, the experts identified a prioritized list of seventeen (17) trends and issues in synthetic biology. Further, of the 17 trends and issues in synthetic biology, the following five (5) were identified for more detailed information gathering to inform the assessment step:

**FORUM GUIDELINES:**

Participants are expected to:

1. Briefly introduce themselves when posting their first message, including their name, country and institutional affiliation.
2. Keep their messages short, concise and focused.
3. Ensure that the messages are relevant to the topic/question being discussed.
4. Make sure that the text or files attached do not contain viruses, corrupted files or any other similar file deficiencies.
5. Be respectful of others' points of views.

Participants must **sign-in using a CBD account** to post messages on the Forum.

**SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES 2023-2024**

- > Calendar of Activities
- > Open-ended Online Forum March 2023
- > Open-ended Online Forum November 2023

**List of participants**

- > Submissions
- > AHTEG
- > Peer Review (Literature Review)

**RESOURCES**

- > CBD Technical Series 800 Synthetic Biology
- > Webinar on Synthetic Biology Governance and Cooperation Opportunities

**PAST ACTIVITIES**

- > Open-ended Online Forum
- > AHTEG
- > Peer Review Processes
- > Literature Review 2023-2024

*Figure 75. Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology*



### 3.8.2. Supplementary Protocol

Clicking on **Supplementary Protocol** takes you to the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress page on the Convention on Biological Diversity website (Figure 76). The **Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** was adopted as a supplementary agreement to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and it aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress relating to living modified organisms.

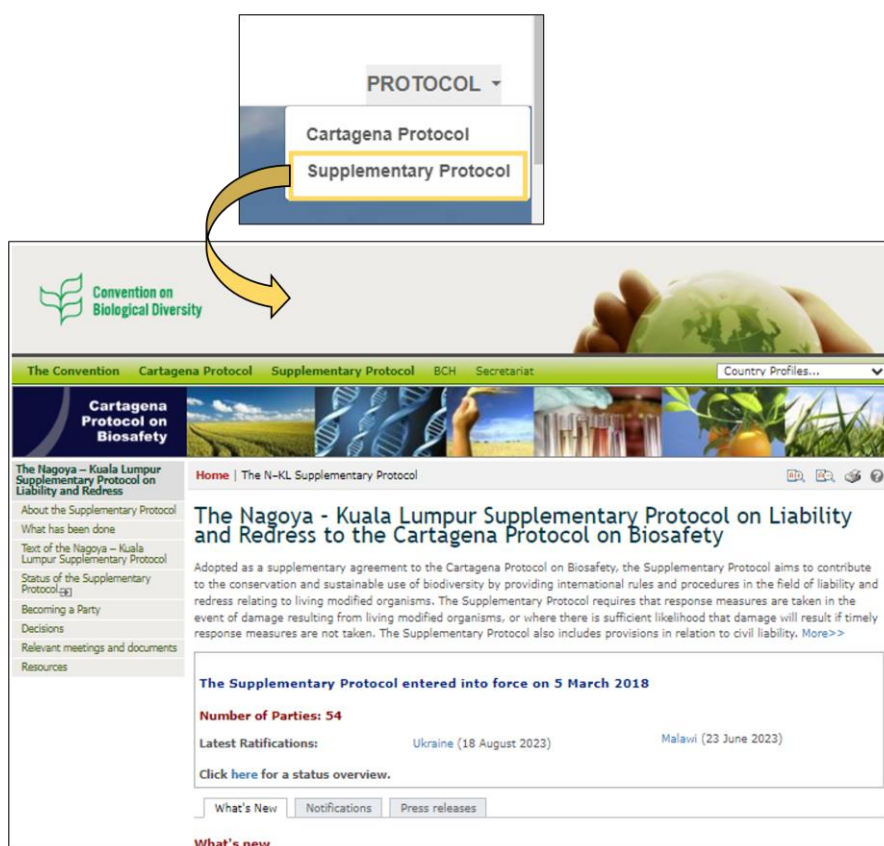


Figure 76. Supplementary Protocol

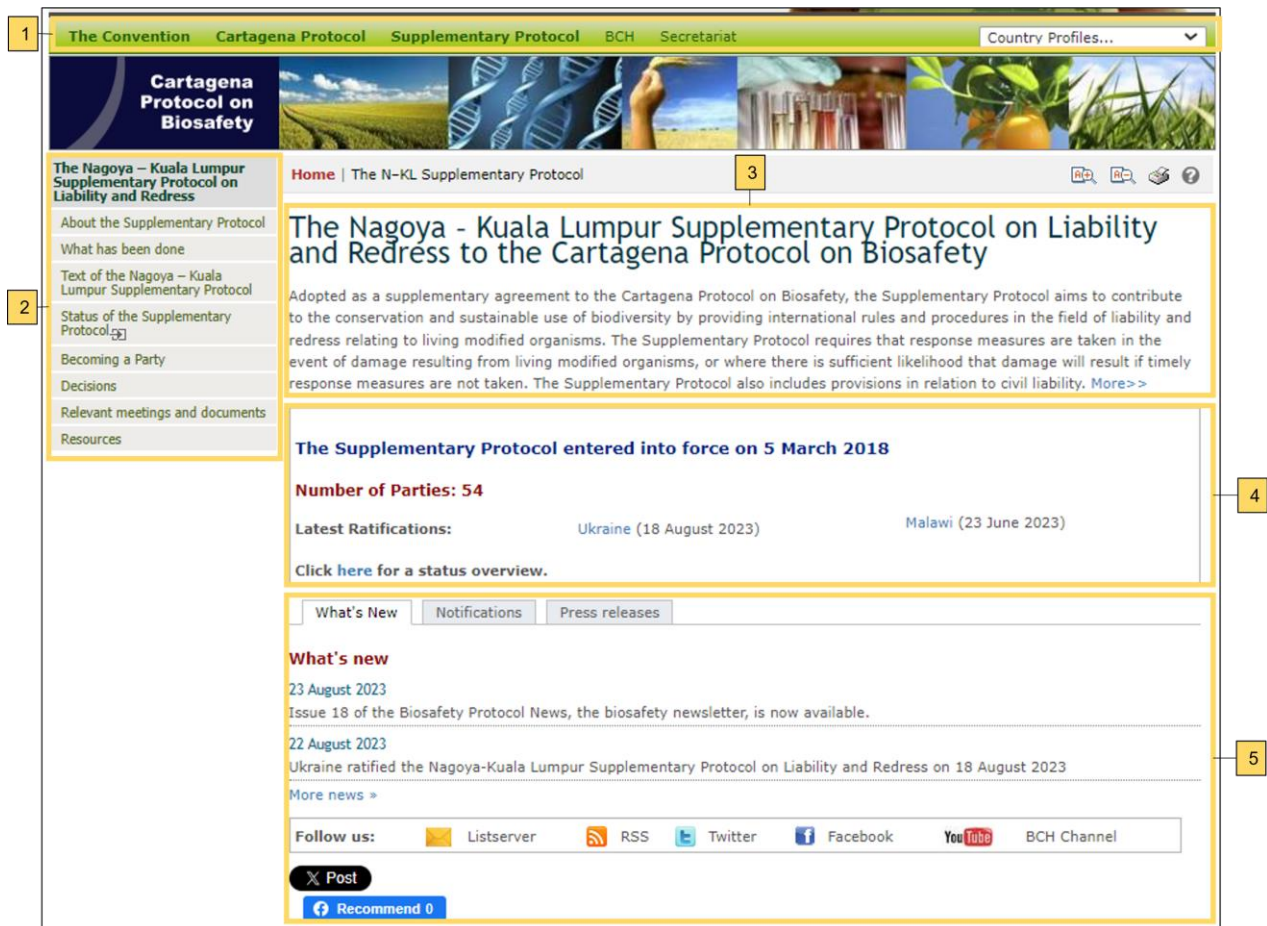


Figure 77. The Supplementary Protocol Homepage

On the Supplementary Protocol page, you will find:

14. A **navigation bar** with the following sections: The Convention, the Cartagena Protocol, the Supplementary Protocol, the BCH, and the Secretariat; If you enter any of these sections, you will find specific information about each.

On the far right of the navigation bar you will find the Country Profiles, which displays a drop-down menu where you can select the country you are interested in finding information about.

15. In the menu on the left hand-side you will find specific information about the **Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress**, such as the text of the Protocol (all articles and in the different official languages of the United Nations), its Status, Becoming a Party, its Decisions, Relevant meetings and documents and resources.

16. In the home page of the **Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**, you will find information regarding how this Supplementary Protocol was established and related issues. Clicking on "more..." will take you to the "**About the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress**" page,

which includes information on what this Supplementary Protocol is about. You will also find three tabs with information related to: Entry into Force, Core Obligations, and Negotiation History (Figure 78)

17. Here you can find the date of entry into force of the Supplementary Protocol and the number of **Parties** so far, highlighting the last countries that have ratified this agreement.

18. In this section you will find three tabs:

**18.1. What's new:** access to news on different topics and activities of the Supplementary Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol. The news is displayed starting from the most recent one;

**18.2. Notifications** sent by the SCBD on different topics and activities of the Supplementary Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol. Likewise, these are displayed from the most recent one;

**18.3. and Press releases** that are made within the context of the Supplementary Protocol. In the lower part of this section, you will also find the links to different social networks, such as Facebook, YouTube, and others, which you can follow to stay informed about news and activities of this Supplementary Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol.

The screenshot shows a web page with a header banner featuring images of a field, a DNA helix, a hand holding a leaf, laboratory glassware, and corn. The page title is 'The Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress'. A navigation menu on the left lists: 'About the Supplementary Protocol', 'What has been done', 'Text of the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol', 'Status of the Supplementary Protocol [gg]', 'Becoming a Party', 'Decisions', 'Relevant meetings and documents', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'About the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress' and includes a sub-heading 'What is the Supplementary Protocol?'. The text explains that the protocol aims to contribute to biodiversity conservation by providing international rules on liability and redress for living modified organisms. It defines 'damage' as an adverse effect on biodiversity, 'operator' as a person in control of the organism, and 'response measures' as actions to prevent or restore biodiversity. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Entry into force', 'Core obligations', and 'Negotiation history'.

*Figure 78. About the Supplementary Protocol*

## 4. Explore the Map

On the BCH Home Page you will find the **Explore the Map** shortcut box (Figure 79). If you click on this box, it will take you to the world map where you can access the country profiles of the Parties and Non-Parties to the Cartagena Protocol as described above in this manual. The country profiles contain the National Records submitted by each country to the BCH.

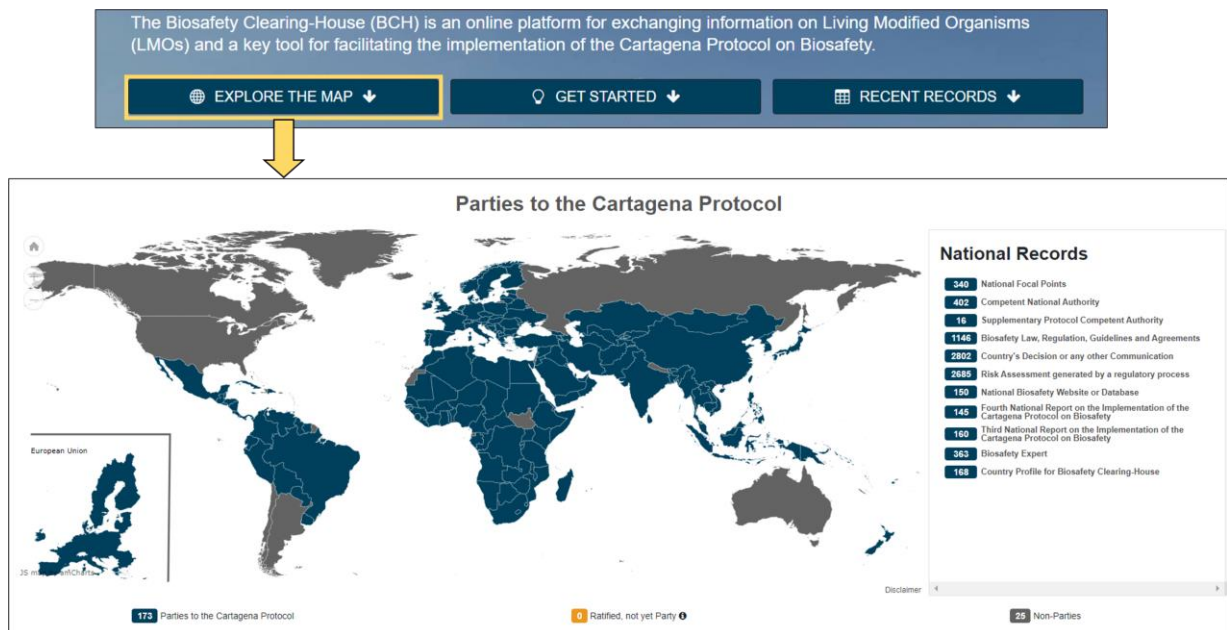


Figure 79. Explore the Map

## 5. Get Started

On the BCH Home Page you will find the **GET STARTED** shortcut box. Clicking on this section will display three boxes (Figure 80): **LEARN** (where you will find information about the BCH Knowledge Base, the Cartagena Protocol, and FAQs), **SEARCH** (where you will find information on how to search for information on the BCH), and **SUBMIT** (where you will find information on how to submit information on the BCH). Through Get Started you will access links on the topics mentioned above, and which have been described elsewhere in this Manual.

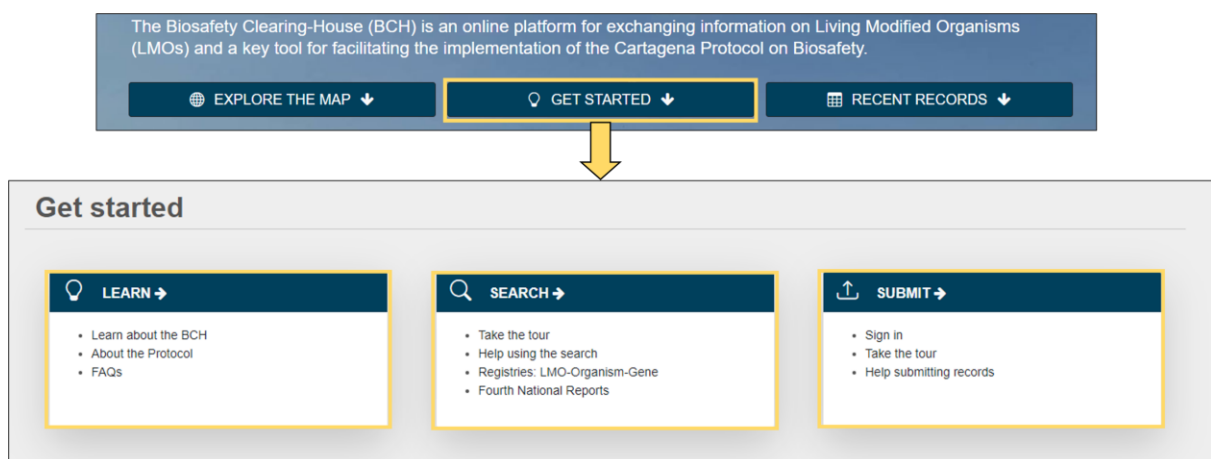


Figure 80. Get Started

## 6. Recent Records

On the BCH Home Page you will find the **RECENT RECORDS** shortcut box. Clicking on this section will display the National and Reference records that have been recently published on the BCH (Figure 81).

The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is an online platform for exchanging information on Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

EXPLORE THE MAP ↓ GET STARTED ↓ **RECENT RECORDS ↓**

### National records

Recently published

<b>Ms. Mimosa Bethel</b> BCH National Focal Point NATIONAL FOCAL POINT VANUATU CHM-NFP-VU-263426-5 20 May 2024	Law on the implementation of Regulation (EC) no. 1829/2003 (Official Gazette No. 18/2013, 47/2014 and 114/2018) LMOs for direct use as feed, LMOs for direct use as food, LMOs for processing BIOSAFETY LAW, REGULATION, GUIDELINES AND AGRE... CROATIA BCH-LAW-HR-268953-1 16 May 2024
<b>M. Pierre Nirina Rahagalala</b> BCH National Focal Point NATIONAL FOCAL POINT MADAGASCAR CHM-NFP-MG-263425-4 20 May 2024	Ordinance on conditions for monitoring, labeling and packaging of genetically modified organisms and products that consist of or contain a genetically... LMOs for direct use as feed, LMOs for direct use as food, LMOs for processing BIOSAFETY LAW, REGULATION, GUIDELINES AND AGRE... CROATIA BCH-LAW-HR-268953-1 16 May 2024
<b>DA-BPI Biotech</b> All the information regarding biotechnology, policies, forms, process flow, approval registry and contact informations NATIONAL BIOSAFETY WEBSITE OR DATABASE PHILIPPINES BCH-NDB-PH-102730-4 20 May 2024	Ordinance on the scope and content of the report on assessing the suitability of placing on the market genetically modified organisms and products that... LMOs for direct use as feed, LMOs for direct use as food, LMOs for processing BIOSAFETY LAW, REGULATION, GUIDELINES AND AGRE... CROATIA BCH-LAW-HR-268953-1 16 May 2024
<b>Decision on a small-scaled field trial with GM tobacco</b> Tobacco transformed with fission yeast mitotic activator   Tobacco, TOBAC , Resistance to antibiotics, Changes in physiology and/or production RISK ASSESSMENT GENERATED BY A REGULATORY PR... CZECH REPUBLIC BCH-RA-CZ-102011-3 17 May 2024	Ordinance on conditions that must be met by official and national reference laboratories for genetically modified organisms (Official Gazette No. 81/2020) LMOs for direct use as feed, LMOs for direct use as food, LMOs for processing, Pharmaceuticals BIOSAFETY LAW, REGULATION, GUIDELINES AND AGRE... CROATIA BCH-LAW-HR-102427-3 16 May 2024

SEE MORE →

### Reference records

Recently published

<b>LAB - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF/TAGEM)</b> Organization of inter-laboratory comparisons, Capacity-building or training, Other LABORATORY FOR DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF... BCH-LAB-SCBD-263554-3 30 Apr 2024	<b>Sugarbeet modified for herbicide tolerance</b> KWS SAAT SE & Co. KGaA / PLANTA Applied Plant Genetics and Biotechnology GmbH   Resistance to antibiotics (Kanamycin, Neomycin), Resistance to herbicides (Glufosinate) LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISM BCH-LMO-SCBD-111874-3 13 Apr 2024
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*Figure 81. Recent National and Reference Records*

At the end of either the National or Reference records sections is the **SEE MORE** arrow. Click on it to display the page of all the records that can be found on the BCH (Figure 82): National records (blue), Reference records (red), and SCBD records (black).

**BCH** BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

HOME ABOUT SEARCH SUBMIT COUNTRY PROFILES HELP FORUMS PROTOCOL

CBD / BCH / Search

### Search

Search the Clearing-House

TAKE SEARCH TOUR

GLOBAL FILTERS: Record types Keywords Country Regions Date

All records 17281 National records 9523 Reference records 637 SCBD records 1071

Page 1 of 1 < First < Prev 1 Next > Last > 1 - 13 of 13 Items per page 25

### Third National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (160)

**Afghanistan**  
THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY | AFGHANISTAN | BCH-NR3-AF-113007-2 | 15 JAN 2019

**Albania**  
THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY | ALBANIA | BCH-NR3-AL-109537-1 | 05 JAN 2016

*Figure 82. Types of Records*

As additional information for users of this Manual, we describe below what National, Reference, and SCBD records are, and what types of records fall into each of these categories.

<b>Type of Record</b>		<b>Description</b>
NATIONAL RECORDS		National Records are published by Governments and include national information relevant for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol as well as information Parties are obliged to provide in accordance with the Protocol. Prior to being made publicly available in the BCH, all National Records are validated and published by the BCH National Focal Points.
National Focal Points (NFPs)	Cartagena Protocol NFPs	Points of contact responsible for liaising with the Secretariat regarding the Cartagena Protocol.
	Biosafety Clearing-House NFPs	Points of contact responsible for publishing information related to biosafety in the Biosafety Clearing-House.
	Emergency Measures Contact Points	Points of contact responsible for receiving notifications under Article 17 of the Cartagena Protocol.
Competent National Authorities (CNA)		Entities designated by governments to perform administrative functions required by the Protocol, such as granting approvals for the import and export of genetically modified organisms.
Supplementary Protocol Competent Authorities		Entities designated to handle liability and redress issues related to the transboundary movement of living modified organisms as outlined in the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol.
Biosafety Laws, Regulations, Guidelines, Agreements		Legal, administrative, and other measures implemented by countries to adhere to the Cartagena Protocol and any relevant agreements regarding the movement of living modified organisms.



Type of Record	Description
Decisions or Communications (DEC)	National decisions, notifications, declarations, or communications made by countries in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol.
Risk Assessments (RA)	Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews of living modified organisms conducted by regulatory processes outlined in Article 15 of the Cartagena Protocol.
National Biosafety Websites or Databases (NDB)	National resources such as websites and databases providing information related to biosafety.
National Reports (NR1, NR2, NR3, NR4, NRI)	Reports submitted by countries detailing their implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.
Biosafety Experts (EXP)	Roster of experts in biosafety-related fields.
Country Profiles (BCP)	Additional information about a country's biosafety activities and measures as part of their profile in the Biosafety Clearing-House.
<b>REFERENCE RECORDS</b>	Reference Records include a number of BCH relevant resources and information and can be submitted by any registered user of the BCH (Parties, Non-Parties, governments, civil society, and relevant stakeholders). However, it is the responsibility of the Secretariat to verify the accuracy and completeness of these records prior to their publication in the BCH. Therefore, Reference Records can be published by the Secretariat only.
Contacts (CON)	Contact details of individuals or organizations relevant to biosafety.
Biosafety Virtual Library Resources (VLR)	Catalogue of publications and resources related to biosafety available in electronic format.
Biosafety Organizations (ORG)	Information about organizations actively involved in biosafety-related activities.

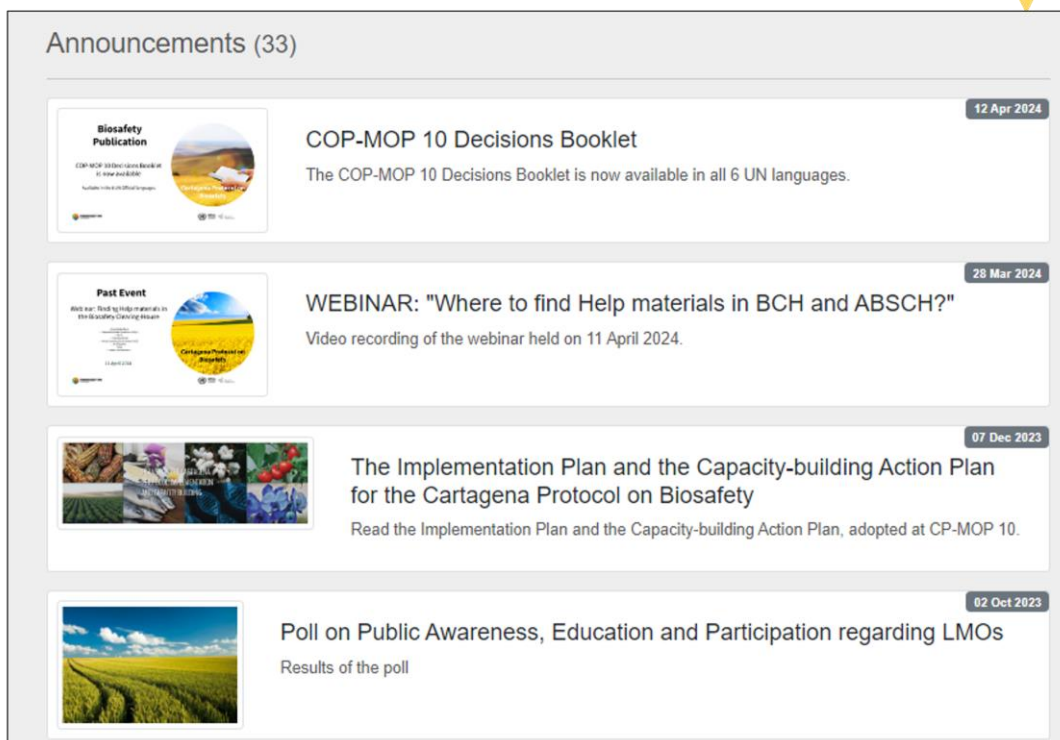
Type of Record	Description
Laboratories for LMOs (LAB)	Laboratories specialized in the detection and identification of living modified organisms.
Living Modified Organisms (LMO)	Information on living modified organisms, including their genetic makeup, traits, and identification methods.
Genetic Elements (GENE)	Details about introduced genetic elements in living modified organisms, including their origin, function, and traits.
Organisms (ORGA)	Information on parental, recipient, and donor organisms related to living modified organisms and genetic elements.
Independent Risk Assessments (IRA)	Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews conducted independently of regulatory processes.
Submissions (SUB)	Submissions made by countries or organizations in response to notifications issued by the Secretariat.
Capacity Development Initiatives (CDI)	Information about initiatives aimed at enhancing capacity in biosafety at various levels.
BCH News (BCHN)	News updates related to the Biosafety Clearing-House.
<b>SCBD RECORDS</b>	SCBD Records consist of information published by the CBD Secretariat relevant to the implementation of the Protocol.
News	Information regarding upcoming CBD meetings and other relevant news from the CBD Secretariat.
Notifications	Official notifications issued by the CBD Secretariat.

Type of Record	Description
What's New	Updates issued by the CBD Secretariat.
Meetings	Meetings organized by the CBD Secretariat.
Statements	Official statements made by the CBD Secretariat.
Press Releases	Official press releases issued by the CBD Secretariat.
Meeting Documents	Documents produced for CBD Secretariat meetings.

\*Information taken from: <https://bch.cbd.int/en/kb/tags/faq/What-are-the-various-categories-of-records-in-the-BCH-/619c553f4f1f30000140eeba>

## 7. Announcements

Through the **Announcements** section of the BCH Home Page (Figure 83), you will have access to the announcements made in the context of the Cartagena Protocol. The date of each announcement is displayed on the top right of each. If you click on **SEE MORE**, all the announcements issued will be displayed starting with the most recent one.




**Figure 83. Announcements**

As an example, we have taken the announcement issued on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (Figure 84): **COP 16 Colombia: Biosafety Clearing-House Training Workshop**. When you click on this announcement, the relevant information about this notice will be displayed.

Announcements

24 May 2024




**Biosafety Clearing-House Training Workshop**  
BCH Training Workshop - 26 October 2024, Cali, Colombia

12 Apr 2024

**Biosafety Publication**

COP-MOP 10 Decisions Booklet is now available

Available in the 6 UN Official languages




**COP-MOP 10 Decisions Booklet**

The COP-MOP 10 Decisions Booklet is now available in all 6 UN languages.

28 Mar 2024

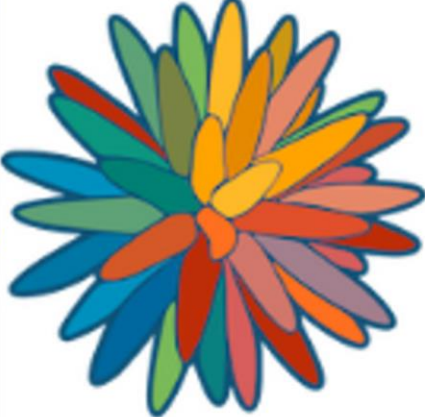
**Past Event**

Webinar: Finding Help materials in the Biosafety Clearing-House



**WEBINAR: "Where to find Help materials in BCH and ABSCH?"**

Video recording of the webinar held on 11 April 2024.



**Biosafety Clearing-House Training Workshop**

📅 24 May 2024

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will convene a Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) Training Workshop on **26 October 2024** in Cali, Colombia, on the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP-11).

Those who wish to participate must be accredited to attend CP-MOP 11 and must complete the pre-registration form available [here](#).

Deadline for registration is **1 September 2024**.

Figure 84. Example of an announcement

## 8. Quick Links - BCH Biosafety Clearing-House

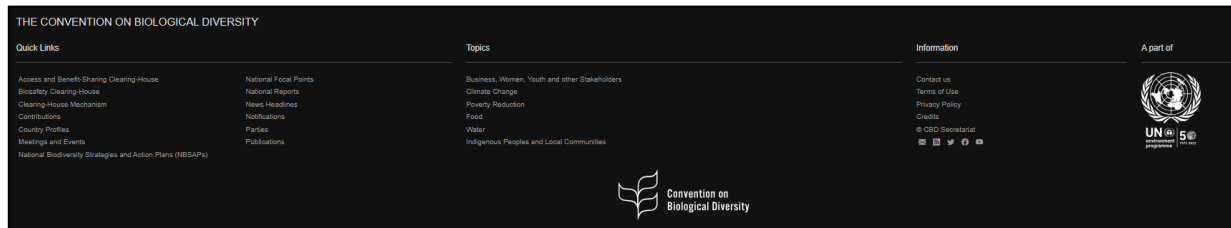
At the bottom of every page of the BCH website you will find the **Quick links** of the BCH, where you will find direct links to the most relevant sections of this website, such as: About the Cartagena Protocol, Search Records, Submit Records, Country Profiles, BCH Announcements, FAQs, and Training Site. You will also find the email address of the BCH contact.

<p><b>Quick links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About the BCH</li> <li>About the Cartagena Protocol</li> <li>Supplementary Protocol</li> <li>Sign in</li> <li>Search records</li> <li>Submit records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registries: LMO-Organism-Gene</li> <li>Country Profiles</li> <li>National Report Analyzer</li> <li>Forums</li> <li>BCH Announcements</li> </ul>	<p><b>Need help?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge Base</li> <li>FAQs</li> <li>Training Materials</li> <li>Training Site</li> <li>Contact us at: <a href="mailto:bch@cbd.int" style="color: white;">bch@cbd.int</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>BCH</b> BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE</p>	<p>Subscribe to e-mail notifications</p>	<p>Subscribe to our newsletter</p>

Figure 85. Quick Links - BCH Biosafety Clearing-House

## 9. Quick Links - The Convention on Biological Diversity

At the bottom of each page of the BCH website you will find the **Quick links** to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Some of the most relevant links are: Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House, Clearing-House Mechanism, Action Plans, National Focal Points, National Reports, Climate Change, Poverty Reduction, Water, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and others. You will also find the link: **Contact us** in case you need to get in touch with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



*Figure 86. Quick Links - The Convention on Biological Diversity*

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