



PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE BCH

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OVERVIEW

- What is the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)?
- How does it work?
- Obligations and benefits of the BCH
- What information can be found there?
- In which form is information registered on the BCH?

WHAT IS THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE (BCH)?

Is a mechanism established in accordance with [Article 20](#) of the Cartagena Protocol in order to:

- Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and
- Assist Parties to implement the Protocol...

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) Central Portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with language options (العربية | 中文 | english | español | français | português) and a sign-up link. The main header features the BCH logo and the Convention on Biological Diversity logo. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, The BCH, The Protocol, Finding Information, Registering Information, Resources, and Help. A search bar is also present. The main content area includes a welcome message, a description of the BCH's purpose, and a list of latest news and additions. On the right side, there are several promotional banners for public awareness, expert forums, and conferences.

Sign Up for an Account | Sign In

العربية | 中文 | english | español | français | português

Biosafety Clearing-House

Convention on Biological Diversity

Home | The BCH | The Protocol | Finding Information | Registering Information | Resources | Help

Country Profiles...

Welcome to the BCH Central Portal

The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is a mechanism set up by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to facilitate the exchange of information on Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and assist the Parties to better comply with their obligations under the Protocol. Global access to a variety of scientific, technical, environmental, legal and capacity building information is provided in the six official languages of the UN.

BCH account holders can create and manage records in the BCH by signing in through the Management Centre (Registering Information) section.

Latest news

- 2018-10-10 New webinar on "How to use the BCH Management Centre for BCH Central Portal National Authorized Users management" (ENGLISH) - 17 October...
- 2018-10-09 New webinar on "How to apply to the Cartagena Protocol Register of Experts" (SPANISH) - 16 October 2018...
- 2018-10-02 Webinar on "Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol" (SPANISH) - 9 October 2018...
- 2018-09-22 Tajikistan - The 25th National Project Coordinators Meeting on Biosafety in Asia...
- 2018-09-18 Belarus - The First National BCH capacity building workshop in the context of the UN Environment - GEF Project for Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH EU)...
- 2018-09-17 South Africa - First National BCH workshop...
- 2018-09-14 Grenada - Grenada BCH workshop 13th -14th September 2018...
- 2018-09-07 15th Anniversary of the Entry Into Force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 11 September 2018...

More news...

Latest Additions (More additions...)

- 2018-10-10 Nigeria - Country's Decision or any other Communication
- 2018-10-10 Nigeria - Risk Assessment
- 2018-10-10 Nigeria - Country's Decision or any other Communication
- 2018-10-10 Nigeria - Risk Assessment
- 2018-10-09 Spain - Submissions from Parties, other Governments or relevant organizations

Latest updates

- 2018-10-12 Guyana - National Focal Point
- 2018-10-12 Lesotho - National Focal Point
- 2018-10-11 Colombia - National Focal Point
- 2018-10-09 Malaysia - National Focal Point
- 2018-10-05 Nicaragua - National Focal Point

Portal Public Awareness and Participation

Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management

UN Biodiversity Conference COP14 COMOP-14 COMOP-14 17 Nov - 29 Nov 2018 Documents

NBSAP FORUM BIO SAFETY

HOW DOES IT WORK? (1/2)

Who can access the BCH?

- Information in the Biosafety Clearing-House is open and accessible to all users.
- You don't need **to be registered** to the BCH website to **search for information** !!
- Confidential information **should NOT be** posted on the BCH.

Who can put information on the BCH?

- Different government departments or agencies can put National and Reference Information
- General Users and Non-Governmental Organization can put Reference information

HOW DOES IT WORK? (2/2)

Language requirements of the BCH?

- The governing body of the Protocol has decided that Information should be submitted to the BCH in a UN official language (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish).
- However, full information sources and comments that are linked to records in the BCH may be made available by the submitting government in their original language.
- COP/MOP-1 encourages use of commonly used international languages

WHY DO WE REGISTER INFORMATION ON THE BCH? (1/3)

- In accordance with [Article 20\(3\)](#) of the Cartagena Protocol, each Party should make available to the BCH certain categories of information. These include:
 - Any existing laws, regulations and guidelines for implementation of the Protocol, as well as information required by the Parties for the advance informed agreement procedure;
 - Any bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements;
 - Summaries of its risk assessments or environmental reviews of LMOs generated by its regulatory process, including, where appropriate, relevant information regarding products thereof;
 - Its final decisions regarding the importation or release of LMOs; and
 - Reports submitted by it pursuant to Article 33, including those on implementation of the advance informed agreement procedure.
- Illegal tranboundary movements ([Article 25](#))
- Unintentional tranboundary movement including a contact point for emergency measures ([Article 17](#))

WHY DO WE REGISTER INFORMATION ON THE BCH? (2/3)

- In addition to the Protocol, COP-MOP adopt decisions regarding operational and technical aspects of the BCH, including additional information that should be made available through the BCH;
- Hence, Parties will have to monitor existing and future decisions !!
- Required information should be posted within defined time-frames, or as soon as feasible

WHY DO WE REGISTER INFORMATION ON THE BCH? (3/3)

- In addition to the information required to be made available to the BCH to comply with the Protocol and the subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties, Parties may wish to provide some information voluntarily, including information on laboratories, activities, academic research and projects related to biosafety.
- Governments that are not Parties to the Protocol, as well as non-governmental organizations, are encouraged to register relevant biosafety information on the BCH website.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE BCH?

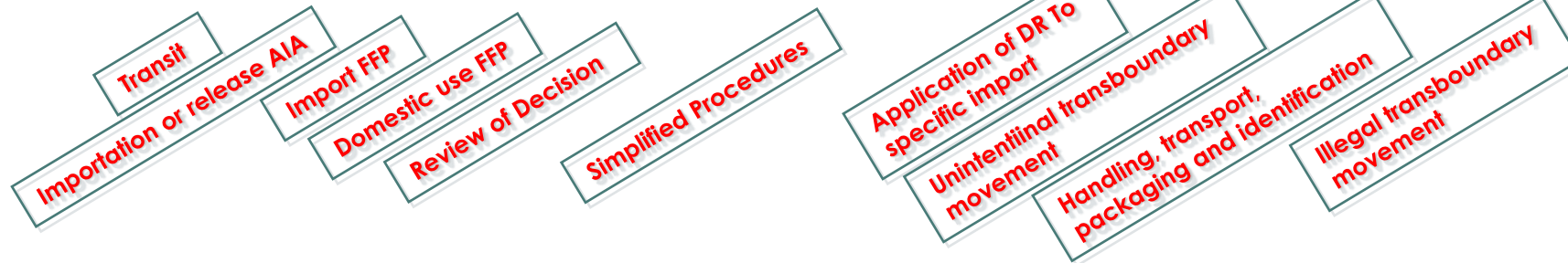
- **Access information about**
 - The national laws, regulations and guidelines of other Parties; and information about the decisions and assessments of other countries relating to specific LMOs;
 - Capacity-building and other assistance available to support implementation of the Protocol;
- **Ensure that:**
 - All potential exporters of LMOs to their country, or those who wish to transport LMOs across their territory, are aware of their national regulatory requirements;
 - Relevant authorities in other countries can quickly find out who to inform in the event of an accidental movement of LMOs into their territory.
- **Assist Governments to make informed decisions regarding the importation or release of LMOs.**

Required

CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION (1/2)

National Records:

- National Contacts (for competent national authorities and national focal points) (Art. 19)
- Laws & Regulations (Art. 2 and 15.3) and bi/multilateral/regional agreement (Art. 14)
- Country's Decisions (Art. 6.1, 10.3, 11, 11.1, 12.1 and 13.1) & other Communications (Art. 14(4), 17, 18 and 25.3)



- National Reports on implementation (Art 33)
- Roster of Experts and report on his assignment. (Expert nominated by a country can be of any nationality)

National and Reference Records

- Submissions from Parties, other Governments and biosafety relevant organizations
- Risk Assessment (Art. 20.3c)

▪ BCH News

CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION (2/2)

Reference Records

- LMOs, Genetic elements or Organisms
- Capacity-Building (both **needs** as well as **opportunities**)
- Directory of International Organizations involved in Biosafety Activities
- The BCH Virtual Library


IN WHICH FORM IS INFORMATION REGISTERED ON THE BCH?

- Information is registered in the form of records having a standardized structure (common format) to be filled with the required information.
- Common formats are intended to facilitate the indexing of information and its inclusion in databases which simplifies searching for and locating information in the BCH databases
- Records common formats are adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Protocol

EXAMPLE OF COMMON FORMAT

Data entry form

Contact details of the focal point to be nominated	
1. Title:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Professor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <Text entry>
2. Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.
3. First name:*	<Text entry>
4. Middle name:	<Text entry>
5. Last or Family name:*	<Text entry>
Work related information	
6. Job title:	<Text entry>
7. Employer / Organization*	<Text entry>
8. Organization acronym: ³	<Text entry>
9. Department / Division / Unit:	<Text entry>
10. Type of organization:	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> IGO Inter-Governmental Organization <input type="checkbox"/> NGO Non-Governmental Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> UN United Nations Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <Text entry>
Coordinates	

 **Contact**

[Specify languages »](#)

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Instructions

Fields marked with an asterisk are mandatory.

Personal Information

Please provide full names rather than only acronyms or initials.

Title	First Name	Middle Name	Last or Family name *
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Job Title

Employer / Organization *

Acronym

Department / Division / Unit

For more information, please email

elkawyo@gmail.com

Thank you !