

*The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety sets the international standards for ensuring the sustainable development of biotechnology and protection of biodiversity and human health*



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

Overview of  
the Status of Implementation  
of Article 23 of  
the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,  
including the Programme of Work on  
Public Awareness, Education and  
Participation (PAEP) regarding LMOs,  
including Access to Information, and  
its Priority Areas

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## **Convention on Biological Diversity**

# Overview

Part 1: Background

Part 2: Status of Implementation of  
the Programme of Work on PAEP and  
its Priority Areas

Part 3: Progress of Aarhus  
Convention/CBD collaborative work

Part 4: Way Forward



## Convention on Biological Diversity

# Background

Negotiated under auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Adopted 29 January 2000 by CBD Ex-COP;  
Entered into force: 11 September 2003;  
Now 173 Parties

2 main procedures:

-The Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) procedure, when exporting an LMO countries are required to seek consent from the potential importing countries prior to the first shipment. Before deciding to import LMOs, countries are required to assess their potential risks in a scientifically sound and transparent manner and promote public participation regarding LMOs. Based on the results of the risk assessment a country can decide to import or not to import a specific LMO.

-LMOs-Food, Feed and Processing (LMOs-FFP), placing such LMOs onto the market countries are required to make public their decision by entering it into a central information system known as the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), available online at <https://bch.cbd.int>



## Convention on Biological Diversity

## Background

The Protocol requires Parties, to cooperate with other States and international bodies, to promote and facilitate public awareness and education, including access to information, regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs

Programme of Work on PAEP (2010-2020): adopted by 5th governing body meeting (COP-MOP 5) and extended at COP-MOP 8 with priority areas to end of 2020

# Programme of Work on PAEP and its Priority Areas

Programme of Work, 4 elements : including on Capacity-building and Public access to information examples:

- Collaboration (e.g., the Aarhus Convention)
- Synergies (e.g. the Aarhus Convention and the Lucca Guidelines)

Priority Areas for the Programme of Work, 7 priority areas, among others to: Build and maintain joint initiatives and Improve tools and procedures for access to information examples:

- Joint awareness events
- Tools and checklists (e.g. the joint Aarhus Convention/CBD materials)
- A process to handle requests for information and making information available
- A certificate from the module on access to information at the E-Learning Platform at <https://scbd.unssc.org/course/view.php?id=40>



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## Part 2: Status of Implementation of the Programme of Work on PAEP and its Priority Areas

Main successes from Survey on PAEP, Fall 2019

47 respondents mostly from governments (35 from focal points)

21 questions

Main successes from the fourth national reports, so far, 2019

77 respondents (as of 12 December)

Over 15 questions related to Article 23



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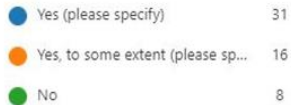
# Part 2: Status of Implementation of the Programme of Work on PAEP and its Priority Areas

Main successes and challenges from Survey on PAEP, Fall 2019

## Successes

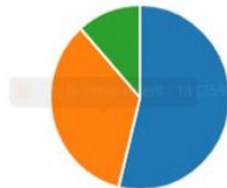
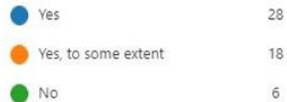
3. Has your country designated a unit, department or other institutional entity to promote public awareness, education and participation?

[More Details](#)



18. Has your country established a procedure for facilitating public access to biosafety information?

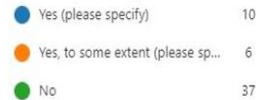
[More Details](#)



## Challenges

7. Has your country shared any materials on public awareness, education and participation through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) in the past 4 years?

[More Details](#)

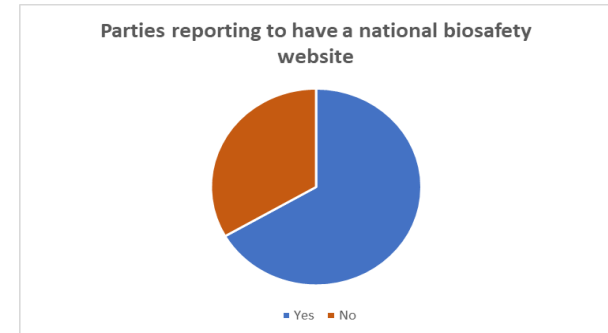
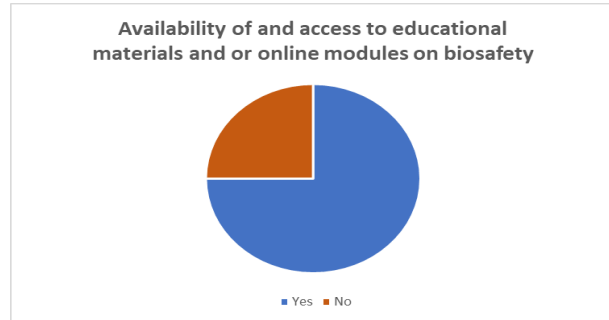
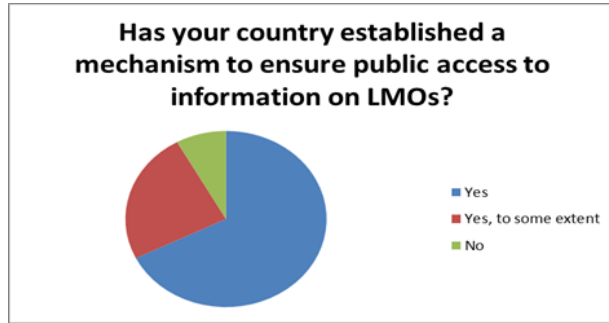


# Part 2: Status of Implementation of the Programme of Work on PAEP and its Priority Areas

Main successes and challenges from the fourth national reports, so far, 2019

Successes

Challenges





# Part 3: The Aarhus Convention/CBD collaboration

Based on decision on cooperation: Decisions BS-II/6, BS-II/13 and BS-VII/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

-Meetings (e.g. Joint Round Tables, Workshops, Side events and Online Discussions)

-Materials (e.g. Checklist, Summary of tools and resources, E-Learning Modules on Access to Information and Newsletter) (<https://scbd.unssc.org/>).



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## Part 4: Way Forward

Expected adoption of the Implementation Plan for Biosafety (Goals A.2 and B.3) at COP-MOP 10, with a goal related to access to information, and complementary to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Meetings: 4th round table on access to information and public participation (as recommended by the Chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round table)  
-Support Implementation Plan and Aarhus Convention decisions

Materials: Pocket guide on access to information and public participation regarding LMOs



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# Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

End of the  
Programme of Work  
and its Priority Areas  
2020

New Global targets  
(GBF) and  
Implementation  
Plan for Biosafety  
2030

Vision: Living  
in Harmony  
with Nature  
2050



To galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society

Tools: Engage more players, including non-state actors  
-Implementation Plan and the target on biosafety in the Global Biodiversity Framework and the SDGs  
-SCBD's Action Agenda, example: Profile non-state actors' and public/private urgent actions in support of the post-2020 biodiversity framework (<https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/>)

# Thank you

- Take urgent action across society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of planet and people
- Joint work on biosafety from government, the private sector and other stakeholders can generate political support for the importance of biosafety for conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity

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