

Implementation of Article 23 on public awareness, education and participation under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety



2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
COP 15 - CP/MOP10-NP/MOP4
Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING – MONTREAL

Joint Round Table on LMOs/GMOs

11-13 December 2023



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Presentation Outline

- Background and Overview of the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety Relevant provisions
- Relevant Outcomes from COP/MOP10
 - Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety - Implementation Plan and Capacity-building Action Plan
- CBD Processes and Upcoming events



Overview of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

**CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL
ON
BIOSAFETY
TO THE
CONVENTION
ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

TEXT AND ANNEXES



20
Years
#Biosafety

Adopted on 29 January 2000

Entered into force on 11
September 2003

173 Parties

Aims at protecting biological
diversity from the potential risks
posed by living
modified organisms (LMOs)

Applies to handling and use of
LMOs and their movement
from one country to another

Recognizes that modern
biotechnology has potential for
human wellbeing if developed
and used with adequate safety
measures for the environment
and human health



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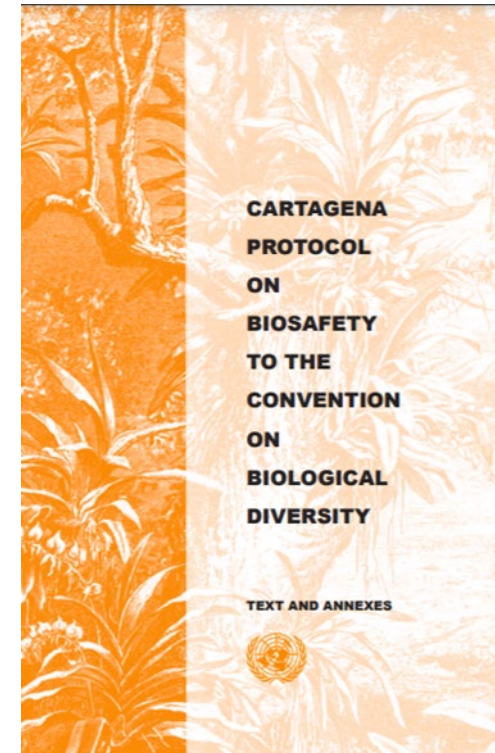
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Specific Provisions Relating to PAEP

- Article 23 requires Parties to:
- **Promote and facilitate** PAE&P concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs; and to cooperate in doing so;
- **Endeavour** to ensure that PA&E encompass access to information on LMOs imported
- **Consult** the public in the decision-making process regarding LMOs and avail the results of such decisions to the public
- **Endeavour** to inform the public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House



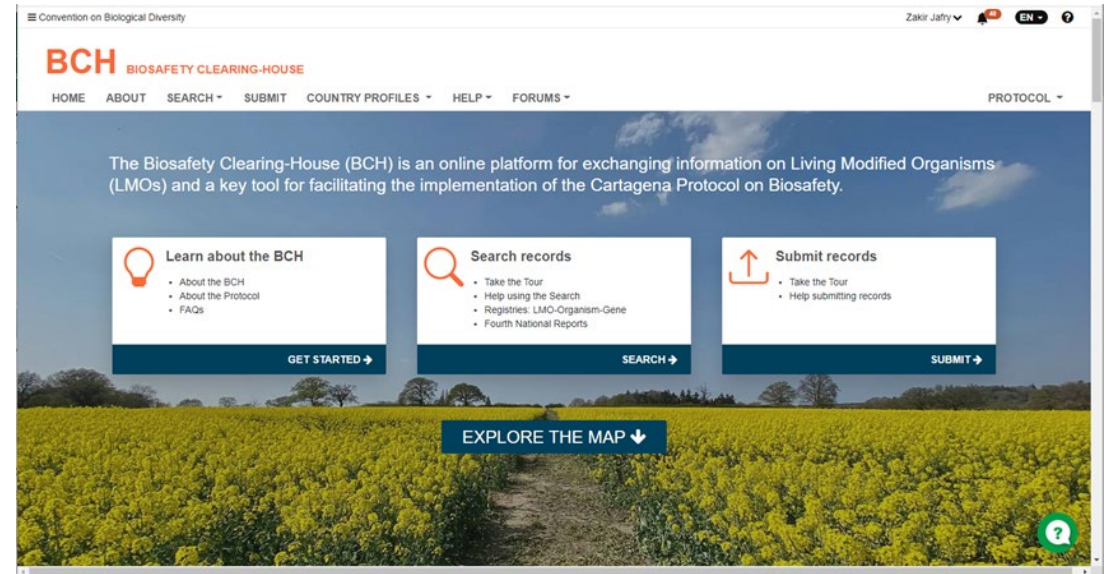
Other Provisions Relating to PAEP

- **Overall, the Protocol emphasizes open and broad sharing of information**
 - It establishes an Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) procedure to ensure that Parties of import obtain all relevant information before taking a decision on import of LMOs (to be released into the environment)
 - **Article 20** of the Protocol establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House to, inter alia, facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, LMOs – <http://bch.cbd.int>



Biosafety Clearing House

- The BCH contains a wide range of information relevant to the public, e.g. biosafety laws, decisions taken regarding the importation/ release of LMOs, registry of LMOs, etc
- BCH Biosafety Information Resource Centre (virtual library) - publications, awareness materials, audio-visuals, etc.
- BCH is freely accessible to all users. Anyone can subscribe to the Current Awareness Service at: <http://bch.cbd.int/>



Snapshot of the Biosafety Clearing House

- 17,400+ records published
 - 940+ LMOs
 - 840+ genetic elements
 - 260+ organisms
 - 70+ laboratories
 - 1570+ virtual library resources
 - 2600+ risk assessments
 - 360+ biosafety experts



Relevant Outcomes from COP/MOP10

- CP-10/3. Implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- CP-10/4. Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress
- CP-10/5. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House (Article 20)
- CP-10/6. Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources (Article 28)
 - Guidance to the Global Environment Facility with respect to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol includes public awareness, education and participation;
- CP-10/7 on assessment and review included specific elements related to Public awareness and participation, biosafety education and training
 - *Stresses* the importance of public awareness, education and participation for the implementation of the Protocol, recognizing that more support in this area is needed;
- CP-10/9. Monitoring and reporting (Article 33)
 - Parties to prepare their reports through a consultative process involving indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and all relevant national stakeholders



Implementation Plan (CP-10/3) and Capacity Building Action Plan (CP-10/4) for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

&

Target 17 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



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Implementation Plan (Goal B.3)

Goal B.3: Parties promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation on the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs, in accordance with Article 23 of the Protocol

B.3.1. Parties have developed mechanisms to promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation in biosafety;

B.3.2. Parties have access to resource materials for promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation in biosafety;

B.3.3. Parties consult the public in making decisions on LMOs, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations, and make the results of decisions available to the public;

B.3.4. Parties inform the public about the means of public access to the BCH.



Implementation Plan (Goal B.3 – Article 23 Indicators)

- (a) Percentage of Parties accessing resource materials for facilitating and promoting public awareness, education and participation in biosafety;
- (b) Percentage of Parties mainstreaming biosafety in relevant educational and training programmes;
- (c) Percentage of Parties having in place a mechanism facilitating and promoting public participation in decision-making regarding LMOs;
- (d) Percentage of Parties informing the public about means for participation in decision-making;
- (e) Percentage of Parties having consulted the public in the decision-making process in accordance with their respective laws and regulations;
- (f) Percentage of Parties making the results of decisions available to the public;
- (g) Percentage of Parties that have informed the public about the means of public access to the BCH.



Implementation Plan (Goal B.3 – Article 23)

Outcome:

Through public awareness, education and participation, Parties ensure that the public is appropriately informed about the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs and involved in decision-making on the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs



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Capacity Building Action Plan

B.3. Parties promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation on the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs, in accordance with Article 23 of the Protocol)

Key areas for capacity building :

- (1) Establishment of national systems for promoting public awareness, education and participation;**
- (2) Development and dissemination of resource and training materials on public awareness, education and participation;**
- (3) Provision of education on biosafety;**
- (4) Strengthening mechanisms for participation in decision-making;**
- (5) Development of public awareness programmes.**

Outcome: *Through public awareness, education and participation, Parties ensure that the public is appropriately informed about the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs and involved in decision-making on the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs*



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Capacity Building Action Plan - Capacity-building activities

- Develop and disseminate capacity-building materials on public awareness, education and participation;
- Develop or update biosafety education programmes and strengthen institutional capacities;
- Integrate biosafety in relevant educational programmes;
- Establish academic exchange and fellowship programmes, including on modern biotechnology and biosafety research;
- Provide training on participation in decision-making, in accordance with national laws and regulations, including on the establishment of mechanisms to inform the public about modalities for participation;
- Provide training on the development and implementation of biosafety public awareness programmes;
- Provide training on biosafety communication.



Implementation Plan and Global Biodiversity Framework

- The IP is intended to facilitate the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and is addressed to Parties to the Cartagena Protocol. **GBF** addressed to Parties to the CBD.
- The Implementation Plan can also support and guide Parties in meeting goals and targets relevant to biosafety within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (COP decision 15/4).
- **COP-MOP recognized complementarity of the Implementation Plan to the GBF** and that the Implementation Plan can contribute to the **achievement of the goals and targets relevant to biosafety** in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, especially for Parties to the Convention that are also Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;



Target 17 – Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (COP decision 15/4)

- Comprises four Goals (A-D) and 23 Targets
- Target 17 addresses biosafety and biotechnology

“**TARGET 17** Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.”

- **Draft Complementary Indicator**

- Number of countries with mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of and access to information on potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity and human health



Implementation Mechanisms by Secretariat

- Institutional and administrative mechanisms
- Mechanisms for notifications
- Stakeholder participation in processes – role of observers in CBD Processes
- Platforms (e.g. online discussion forums, mailing lists, newsletters, social media and outreach)
- Training
- Resource materials



Aarhus Convention/CBD collaborative work

- 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.
 - Coordinated events: Governing body meetings of the Convention and the Aarhus Convention
 - COP/MOP11 (21 October 2024 – 1 November tentative)
 - Implementation of the Implementation Plan and Capacity-building Plan, Target 17 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and Aarhus Convention strategies
 - Regional NBSAP Dialogues
 - Support in organizing the Meetings of the Academic Institutions and Coordination meeting on Capacity-building



Thank you

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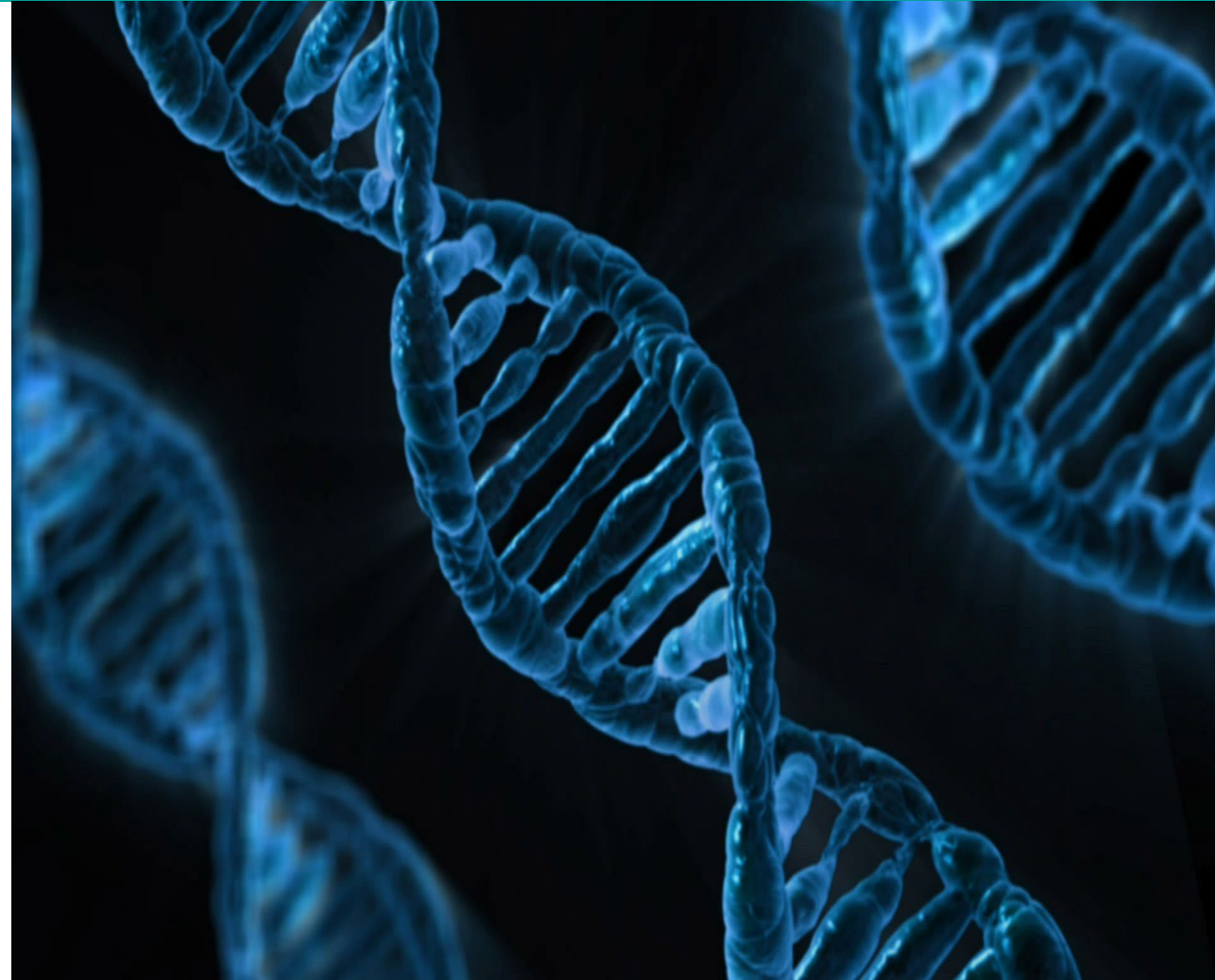
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