



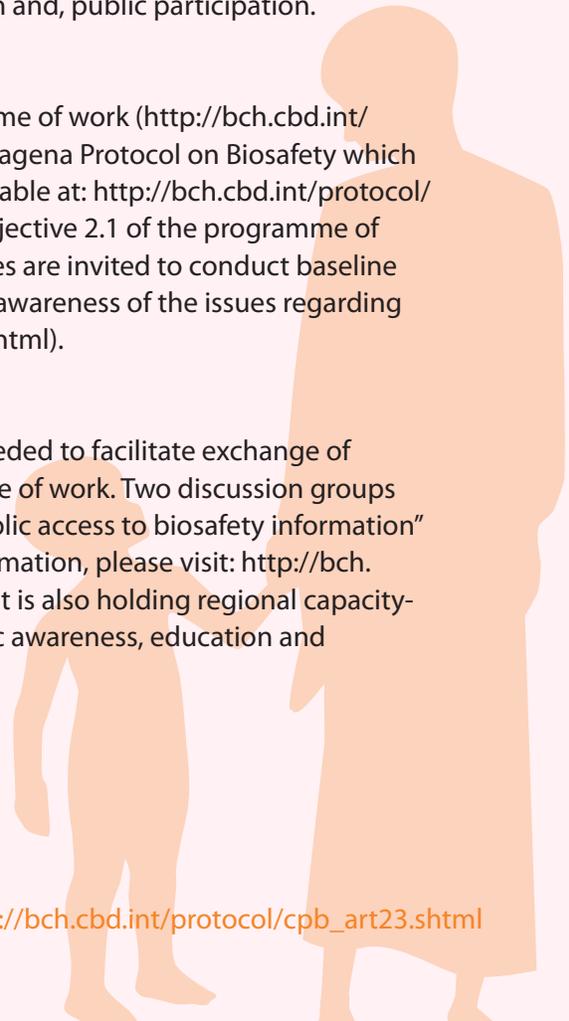
Public Awareness and Participation

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 living modified organisms (LMOs). It also requires Parties to consult the public in the decision-making process, to make public the final decision taken and to inform public about the means of access to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).

Since the adoption of the Protocol, Parties have undertaken a number of measures. Parties are now implementing a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs. The programme includes the following four elements: capacity-building, public awareness and education, public access to information and, public participation.

The Secretariat has launched of a dedicated webpage on the programme of work (http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art23_pow.shtml) and production of a video on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety which contains messages regarding the main provisions of the Protocol, available at: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_media_video1.shtml. In addition, accordance with operational objective 2.1 of the programme of work, the Secretariat has also developed a survey form template. Parties are invited to conduct baseline surveys to ascertain the level of public awareness and evaluate public awareness of the issues regarding LMOs (http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/pa_survey.shtml).

The Secretariat has also establish an online Portal and other means needed to facilitate exchange of information and experiences on the implementation of the programme of work. Two discussion groups were held in the Portal on “The meaning, scope and importance of public access to biosafety information” and “Facilitating public access to biosafety information”. For more information, please visit: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/pa_main.shtml. The Secretariat is also holding regional capacity-building workshops and facilitating online regional networks on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs.





Fast Facts

- More than 1000 biosafety-related publications and information resources are posted in the Biosafety Information Resource Center (BIRC) in the Biosafety Clearing-House.
- Many countries have set up websites and databases to facilitate public access to biosafety information.
- More than 100 countries have an element on public awareness, education and participation in their draft National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs).
- 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The theme for the anniversary is: "10 Years of Promoting Safety in the Use of Biotechnology. Over 20 celebrations are taking place around the world by Parties and organizations. For more information, please visit: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/10thAnniversary.shtml>

Learn More

Public Awareness and Participation under the Protocol:

http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art23.shtml

Programme of Work: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art23_pow.shtml

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

Media and Outreach: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_media.shtml

Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.cbd.int>

Publications: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_otherpubl.shtml

Biosafety Protocol News-Newsletter: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_newsletter.shtml

Frequently asked questions: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_faq.shtml

Online collaborative portals: <https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/>

UN Decade for Biodiversity: <http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/>

10th Anniversary of the Protocol: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/10thAnniversary.shtml>

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