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CONFERENCE

COP13-COPMOP8-COPMOP2
CANCUN, MEXICO 2016

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING



Convention on
Biological Diversity



2011-2020
United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Press Brief: COP-MOP 8

4-17 December 2016

Public awareness, education and participation, including access to information, concerning living modified organisms (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

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 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).

Key Messages

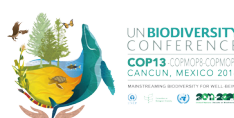
Parties are implementing a Programme of Work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs. The programme includes four elements: capacity-building, public awareness and education, public access to information and, public participation

-In the BCH, there is a Public Awareness and Participation Portal, including a number of resources and activities (e.g. online discussions on access to information and public participation regarding LMOs, communication plan template, awareness survey template). The Portal is available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/pa_survey.shtml

-A Second joint Aarhus Convention/CBD round table on public awareness, access to information and public participation regarding LMOs and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) was held in November 2016, that made some recommendations regarding the Programme of Work on the way forward from the Chair's summary. The Chair's summary is available in an information document (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/mop-08/information/bs-mop-08-inf-09-en.pdf>).



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-The Secretariat has also developed two self-directed e-learning modules on access to information and public participation concerning LMOs, including case studies, exercises, scenarios, checklists, template forms, social media guidelines, publishing tips, tools and methods, and sample national action plans available at <http://scbd.unssc.org/>

Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity

At COP-MOP 5, Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted a Programme of Work (2011-2015) to facilitate the implementation of Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol and decided to review the Programme of Work at COP-MOP 8. In this regard, COP-MOP will consider the status of implementation of the Programme of Work, including a number of activities undertaken or facilitated by the Secretariat to assist Parties in implementing the Programme of Work and decide on its future need and/or necessary revisions.

COP-MOP 8 is expected to review the implementation of the Programme of Work and may decide to extend the Programme of Work with a set of priority areas and activities.

All information sourced from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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Important links

Public awareness, education and participation, including access to information, under the Protocol:

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

The programme of work website: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art23_pow.shtml

The Portal on Public Awareness and Participation:

http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/pa_survey.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

Video of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_media_video1.shtml

Facebook site for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: <https://www.facebook.com/UN.Biosafety>

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