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MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING



Press Brief: COP-MOP 8

4-17 December 2016

Socio-Economic Considerations (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

Background

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety establishes the right of Parties to take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms (LMOs) on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, especially with regard to the value of biodiversity to indigenous and local communities, in reaching a decision on whether to import these organisms. The inclusion of socio-economic considerations in Parties' decision-making on the import of LMOs must be consistent with their international obligations.

Key Messages

Taking socio-economic considerations into account in the context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol is a right of Parties and not an obligation

-The inclusion of socio-economic considerations in Parties' decision-making on the import of LMOs must be consistent with their other international obligations

-Many Parties (46 %), reported in their third national reports that they have specific approaches or requirements that facilitate how socio-economic considerations should be taken into account in decision-making on LMOs. At the regional level, this constitutes a 26 per cent increase in Africa, compared with the second reporting cycle.

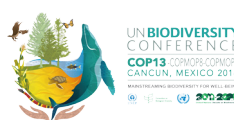
Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity

At its sixth meeting (COP-MOP 6), Parties decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) to develop conceptual clarity in the context of paragraph 1 of Article 26 of the Protocol. The AHTEG met in Seoul in 2014 and agreed on "Elements of a framework for conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations".

COP-MOP-7 considered the outputs of the AHTEG and, in decision BS-VII/13, extended the AHTEG to work on: (i) further developing conceptual clarity taking into account and improving upon the "Elements of a framework for conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations"; and (ii) developing an outline for guidance. COP-MOP 7 also requested that views and comments be submitted on the "Ele-



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ments of a framework for conceptual clarity”, and requested the Secretariat to carry out a number of activities, including the organization of online discussion groups, which took place in 2015.

An online discussion of the AHTEG was organized from 9 May to 17 June 2016. The online discussion of the AHTEG agreed on a revised framework for conceptual clarity. The participants of the online discussion concluded that a face-to-face meeting would be needed to complete the mandate of the AHTEG, in particular by developing an outline for guidance.

COP-MOP is expected to consider whether it wishes to welcome the revised Framework for Conceptual Clarity and whether to extend the AHTEG.

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

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Important links

-Socio-Economic Considerations under the Protocol:

http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26.shtml

-Portal on Socio-Economic Considerations:

http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml

-Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:

<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

-Frequently asked questions:

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


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