



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

OVERVIEW OF THE POST-2020 PROCESS FOR THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

A) Structure and Content of the Implementation Plan for Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) Post-2020.

Vision

The Vision of Nigeria's Implementation Plan for CPB Post-2020 is to create over 80% mainstreaming process of biosafety into national actions as well as biosafety awareness and enlightenment towards making biodiversity adequately protected from any adverse effects of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).

Mission

The mission of the Nigeria Implementation Plan for CPB Post-2020 is to strengthen her bilateral and multilateral biosafety actions and capacity in ensuring a tolerable level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs that may have possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainability of biodiversity.

Nigeria Content of the Implementation Plan for CPB Post-2020

- 1) Coordination and Support: To aggressively establish a strategic working mechanisms for developing biosafety systems with the necessary coordination and financing support. This can be implemented by a serious and strategic lobbying with relevant national offices towards increase in the budgetary allocation for biosafety system in

Nigeria. Establishing a possible increased international fund support for the national biosafety system will also be employed.

- 2) Risk Assessment and Management: To extensively develop implementation of scientific tools on common approaches to risk assessment and risk management. The implementation will include the full scale adoption of information sharing and capacity development. Strengthening of technical infrastructure for risk assessment and risk management like continuous upgrade of the National Laboratory for GMO detection and analysis.
- 3) Nagoya Protocols: To ratify and effectively implement the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Currently, the National Biosafety Management Agency is lobbying with the office of the Attorney General of the Federation and the Presidency in ratifying the protocols and the further domestication of the protocols by developing guidelines and strategies that will promote the actions of the protocols.
- 4) Communication and Outreach: To further raise/increase the awareness of biosafety regulation and the profile of CPB in Nigeria. This will be implemented by increased biosafety public enlightenment programs, constant engagement of parties and stakeholders especially meetings, forums, and consultations relevant to modern biotechnology, biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services are being organized. The annual National Biosafety Conference will be strategically modified to consider dedicated sessions and space to facilitate discussions on the implementation of the CPB post-2020. A product stewardship strategy that will highly encourage increased communication of all aspects of the sector will be developed.
- 5) Emerging Modern Technologies: To mainstream and strengthen the regulation of emerging modern biotechnologies into the national biosafety system. The National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) will be laying a strong foundation for addressing issues of safety in the practice and use of emerging modern biotechnology including gene drive, gene editing and synthetic biology through several effective actions that includes- expansion of NBMA Act to cover regulation of emerging modern biotechnologies, preparation of guidelines and strategies that regulates the practices, carrying out an all-inclusive extensive desk study as related to regulation of the emerging technologies.

B) Possible Elements of a Specific Action for Capacity-Building on Biosafety

Nigeria's capacity building plan is considered to align with the Implementation Plan of the CPB post-2020 and also compliment to the long term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020. These capacity building plans include:

- Intensive and continuous capacity building of Nigeria biosafety officers on modern trends of risk assessment and risk management with special attention to living modified fish and microorganisms used for biofuel production.
- Specific series of international and local capacity building for Nigeria biosafety officers and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Nagoya protocols. Continuous and intensive training activities to strengthen the scientific and technical capacity of the competent authorities to be able to evaluate damage establish casual links and determine appropriate response measures as regards liability and redress.
- High powered technical trainings of over 200 biosafety staff on issues of safety in the practice and use of emerging modern biotechnology including gene drive, gene editing and synthetic biology. Several enlightenment programmes on issues of emerging technology will be encouraged.
- Organization of training-of-trainers workshops for biosafety educators, communicators and other government and non-government personnel at the National and sub-regional levels.
- Organizing of BCH training for specific target groups and information management experts, using the BCH Regional Advisors network and putting in place mechanisms to facilitate the use of the BCH by various stakeholders.
- Integration of biosafety into the curricula of existing relevant academic programs and courses and the development of academic exchange and fellowship programs to facilitate the sharing of expertise, including through North-South and South-South.
- Strengthening of the general biosafety and bio-risk education and training programs at national and sub-regional levels, including online and continuing education programs

C) Relevant Elements of the Biosafety Component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Nigeria views on some of the elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as related to biosafety is centered on the intensive discussion and implementation process for the biosafety regulation of synthetic biology, digital sequence information and a benefit sharing mechanism that will enhance the regulation of emerging technologies with potential adverse effects to the sustainability of biodiversity.

Nigeria is also raising a great concern as regards the Nagoya Protocol. Nigeria highly supports and welcome the idea that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should reflect the need to fully implement the Nagoya Protocol and a benefit-sharing mechanism that should be reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Nigeria through enhancing its biosafety system advocates that by 2030, 80% of the genetic diversity of crops, including their wild relatives (CWR) and other domesticated socio-economically and culturally valuable plant species, is maintained. Effective synergistic strategies need to be developed and implementation for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity should be strengthened.

Conclusion

Nigeria believes in the transition from the current decade to the CPB post-2020 framework however, suggests that strong indicators, in addition to those already identified are needed to monitor progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework covering biosafety issues at the national, regional and global scales. Considering the importance of better implementation, CPB post-2020 framework should address the issues of resource mobilization and strong mechanisms for financial resources to assist eligible Parties in implementation.