



## Press Brief

# Risk Assessment and Risk Management

## Background

Parties to the Protocol are required to make decisions on import of living modified organisms (LMOs) for intentional introduction into the environment in accordance with scientifically sound risk assessments. They are also required to adopt measures for managing risks identified during risk assessments.

## What has been done?

At its fourth meeting, the COP-MOP established an Open-ended Online Expert Forum and Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to develop guidance on specific aspects of risk assessment. As part of the preparation for the work of the AHTEG, eight ad hoc online discussion groups and four regional real-time online conferences (for Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia) were held under the Online Forum.

Through the above process, a document entitled "Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms" was developed. Part I of the document, "Roadmap for Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms," elaborates the technical and scientific process of environmental risk assessment in accordance with Annex III to the Protocol and provides background material and links to relevant references. Part II: "Specific Types of Living Modified Organisms and Traits" provides guidance on the risk assessment of LMOs with stacked genes or traits, living modified crops with improved tolerance to abiotic stress and living modified mosquitoes.

Furthermore in response to the request made at the last meeting, the Secretariat in collaboration with other relevant UN bodies and international organizations developed a draft training manual entitled "Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms". The draft manual was used during the Pacific subregional workshop in Fiji (4-7 July 2010), and the Asian subregional training course on risk assessment in Cambodia (12-16 July 2010).



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## What is expected at COP-MOP 5?

At its fifth meeting, it is anticipated that the COP-MOP might:

- Consider and take appropriate action on recommendations from the AHTEG, including publication of the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms” and continuation of the process for development of further guidance on risk assessment.
- Establish mechanisms for identifying LMOs or specific traits that may have or are not likely to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking into account human health.
- Request the Secretariat to convene further sub-regional and regional training courses and to revise and publish the training manual on risk assessment.

### Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800  
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9  
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220  
Fax: +1 514 288 6588  
secretariat@cbd.int

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

