



BCH
training



Surfing the BCH Central Portal

July 2008

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1 Introduction to the module

What the user will learn in this module:

- 1. To navigate the BCH's Central Portal.**
- 2. To understand the main functionalities of the Central Portal.**
- 3. To know what information the user can find in the Central Portal.**
- 4. To search the databases available on the Central Portal.**

Context:

The UNEP-GEF Project for Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) has prepared a modular training package that aims to provide a practical “how-to” guide for countries to assist them in learning, understanding, using, and setting-up national access to the BCH’s Central Portal. The training package is designed to be flexible and is tailored to meet diverse needs of different countries, allowing them to select those tools and ideas that are most useful to their situation, needs and priorities. The training package is divided into five modules, each addressing one element of the BCH’s Central Portal.

Audience:

This module is designed to provide guidance to users of the BCH Central Portal. It is developed for a non-technical audience with little or no knowledge of the Protocol and the BCH, but with a need to understand the requirements of the BCH Central Portal.

Purpose:

This module describes the main functions and information that can be found on the BCH Central Portal. Users will learn how to navigate the BCH Central Portal, knowing:

1. The structure of information available on the BCH Central Portal;
2. The different categories of information found on the BCH Central Portal.

Note that while users are connected to the BCH Central Portal (<http://bch.cbd.int/>) they can read the sections of this module and surf its various components.

2 Home Page

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

The **Home** page of the BCH Central Portal is a **Welcome** page that provides a gateway to each element of the BCH and all data stored in the Central Portal as well as in the international, regional and national nodes linked to the BCH.

The seven components of the **Home** page are:

1. Links to the BCH in all six United Nations (UN) official **languages** are provided in the top left corner of the Home page.
2. A **Sign In** link for registered users (to access the management centre) and a link to **Sign up for an Account** (for new users to request a BCH account) are positioned in the top right corner.
3. Below these links is the title for the Biosafety Clearing-House and a link in the centre to the website for the **Convention on Biological Diversity**.
4. A navigation bar runs across the Home page below the title. It provides links to the main components of the Central Portal
5. Below the navigation bar, there is a **welcome area** containing Latest News and Latest Additions;
6. To the right of the welcome area there are **shortcuts** to popular or recently added sections.
7. Below the welcome area there are links for users to **contact** the CBD Secretariat, access the site map, review the linkages and privacy policies and review the copyright statement. Below these links is the date of the last update of the Home page and a link to enable users to rate this page.

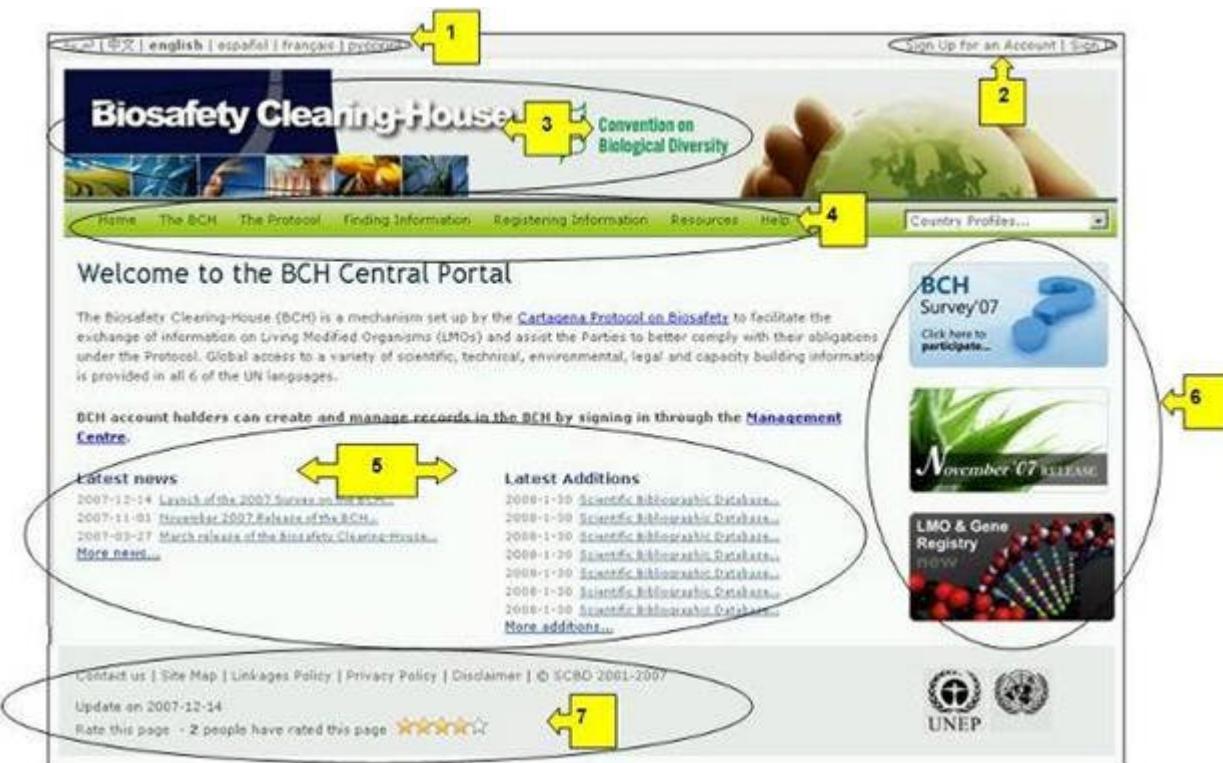


Figure 1

2.1 Welcome to the BCH Central Portal

The **Welcome to the BCH Central Portal** page of the BCH Central Portal has a welcome area that briefly introduces the BCH, provides a quick link to the Management Centre and provides information about highlights, such as the latest news about the BCH Central Portal and the most recent additions to the databases.

Figure 2

2.2 The Management Centre

Immediately below the BCH introductory paragraph is a link to the **Management Centre**, an entry page for BCH account-holders to create and manage their records registered in the BCH.

Module MO06 provides detailed guidance on how to register information in the BCH.

Figure 3

2.3 Latest News

The news links posted in this area provide details of new processes and facilities in the Central Portal. A complete list of BCH news is available at <https://bch.cbd.int/news/news.shtml> and can be reached by following the link to **More news**.

The screenshot shows the 'Welcome to the BCH Central' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, The BCH, The Protocol, Finding Information, and Help. Below the navigation, the main content area features a large heading 'Welcome to the BCH Central'. Underneath it, a paragraph explains the purpose of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) as a mechanism for the exchange of information on Living Modified Organisms under the Protocol. It notes that global access to scientific information is provided in all 6 of the UN languages. Further down, a section titled 'BCH account holders can create and manage records in the Record Centre.' is visible. On the left side, there's a 'Latest news' section enclosed in an oval, containing three news items with dates and titles, followed by a link to 'More news...'. The overall layout is clean and professional.

Figure 4

2.4 Latest Additions

The most recent additions to the BCH databases are displayed on this list. The list is updated every six hours and the seven most recent entries show on the Home page. A complete list of BCH additions is available at <https://bch.cbd.int/about/latestadditions.shtml> and can be reached by following the link to **More additions**.

Registering Information Resources Help

tal

y the [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#) to facilitate the and assist the Parties to better comply with their obligations technical, environmental, legal and capacity building information

n the BCH by signing in through the [Management](#)

Latest Additions

2008-1-26 Belarus - National Focal Point...
 2008-1-26 Cape Verde - National Focal Point...
 2008-1-25 Armenia - National Biosafety Website or Database...
 2008-1-25 Scientific Bibliographic Database...
 2008-1-25 Scientific Bibliographic Database...
 2008-1-25 Scientific Bibliographic Database...
[More additions...](#)

Figure 5

In many instances the **Search results** pages are longer than a standard computer screen and the user needs to scroll down the page to view all the items and links to additional search result pages where these exist.

[Home](#) | [The BCH](#) | [Highlights](#) | [Latest Additions](#)

Latest Additions

Below you can find the newly added and updated records.

Newly added records - updated each 6 hours:

Date	Record ID	Holder and Type	Details
2008-01-27	43705	Syrian Arab Republic Country Profile	Abstract not available
2008-01-25	43704	Cape Verde National Focal Point	Mr. Leao de Carvalho Biosafety Clearing-House Focal Point
2008-01-25	11405	Armenia National Biosafety Website or Database	Ministry of Nature Protection
2008-01-25	43655	Belarus National Focal Point	Dr. Nikolai Kartel Biosafety Clearing-House Focal Point
2008-01-25	43622	Scientific Bibliographic Database	Detecting genetically modified soybean by real-time quantitative PCR technique.
2008-01-25	43621	Scientific Bibliographic Database	Linking soil organisms within food webs to ecosystem functioning and environmental change.

Figure 6

3 The Navigation Bar

Above the welcome area of the Home page is a ***navigation bar*** that provides links to the major components of the BCH.



Figure 7

The **BCH** section provides links to information about the BCH, its development and management, highlights and policies.

The **Protocol** section provides links to the text of the Protocol, a list of Parties to the Protocol, COP-MOP Decisions, information about official reports, meetings documents and Notifications. The **Finding Information** section provides links to search interfaces for the different categories of information in the BCH databases and to compiled information (i.e. National Contacts, the LMOs Registry, the Parental Organisms Registry and the Gene Registry).

The **Registering Information** section links the user to the *sign in* page for the Management Centre through which BCH users can create and manage their information.

The **Resources** section provides access to other useful site resources such as (i) the Common Formats used in the BCH, (ii) the Glossary, (iii) the Thesaurus; (iv) a page describing the solutions for National Participation (Hermes and the BCH Ajax Plug-In), (v) the available Mailing Lists, (vi) a list of downloadable files and (vii) the Site map.

The **Help** section provides access to (i) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), (ii) BCH Training Modules, (iii) Guide to the BCH, (iv) Training Site of the BCH and (v) Interoperability Services. On the right side of the navigation bar is a search box for locating country profiles. This provides a quick search function to locate all records for each country listed.

The menus on the BCH Central Portal use icons to illustrate aspects of the associated links. The commonly encountered menu icons include:

- Link takes the user to another website
- Link to a PDF document
- Link takes the user to a search facility on another website

Details of more icons used on the BCH Central Portal are provided in the Ready Reference 4 guide available on the Training Site of the BCH (<https://bchtraining.cbd.int/member/training-signin.aspx?returnurl=%2fdefault.shtml>).

3.1 Country Profiles

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

All pages of the BCH provide a quick search facility to obtain ***country profiles***. The link is provided on the right hand side of the navigation bar. The drop down menu allows the user to select a country and display a summary of all the records entered in the BCH by that country.



Figure 8

The country profiles contain information and status for each country as follows: Country; Date of signature; Date of ratification; Date of entry into force; Profile revision; Profile status and Profile last updated on. It lists the type of documents registered (e.g. National Focal Point, Law, regulation or guideline, risk assessment, etc.) with hyperlinks to access those records. The number of records for each type of document is indicated as well as the date of last update.

3.2 The BCH

URL: <http://bch.cbd.int/about/>

The introductory page for the BCH section explains the Mandate of the Biosafety Clearing-House and provides some background information about the development of the site. The information about the BCH is divided into three sections:

1. **The BCH**, providing information about its modalities of operation, multi-year program of work, decisions, development and the advisory committee;
2. **Highlights**, providing news on BCH developments, new additions to the databases, notifications under the CBD and meetings and documents;
3. **Policies**, providing information about the listing of external websites, dealing with privacy and a disclaimer.

The content of the BCH section is accessed from the menu on the left side of **The Biosafety Clearing-House** page, or from **The BCH** drop down menu on the navigation bar.

Figure 9

Figure 10

3.2.1 The BCH

This section provides information about the establishment and running of the BCH Central Portal.

3.2.1.1 Modalities of operation

The link for **Modalities of Operation** takes the user to a page which provides information about how the BCH functions and the roles of the institutions that participate in its establishment, maintenance and use.

The BCH

- Modality of Operation
- Multi-year Program of Work
- Decisions on the BCH
- Development of the BCH
- BCH IAC

Highlights

- BCH News
- Latest Additions
- Notifications (3)
- Meetings and Documents (3)

Policies

- Linking External Websites Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Disclaimer

Home | The BCH | Modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House

Modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House

(Annex to Decision BS-1/3: Information sharing and the BCH)

Sections

- A. Role of the Biosafety Clearing-House
- B. Characteristics of the Biosafety Clearing-House
- C. Administration of the Biosafety Clearing-House
- D. Role of the Biosafety Clearing-House focal points
- E. Technical oversight and advice
- F. Obligations of partner organizations
- G. Reports on activities
- H. Periodic review

A. Role of the Biosafety Clearing-House

1. The role of the Biosafety Clearing-House in the provision and exchange of information in support of implementation of the Protocol, is clearly articulated in the Protocol. At a minimum, the Biosafety Clearing-House has a role in providing access to information relating to:

Figure 11

3.2.1.2 Multi-year Program of Work

The link for the **Multi-year Program of Work** takes the user to a page which outlines the establishment and maintenance of the major components of the BCH.

Home | The BCH | Multi-year Program of Work

Multi-year Program of Work (Annex BS-II/2)

Programme elements

1. Programme element 1: Structure and function of the central portal
2. Programme element 2: Information content and management
3. Programme element 3: Sharing information on and experience with LMOs
4. Programme element 4: Capacity-building and non-Internet accessibility
5. Programme element 5: Review of activities

Programme element 1: Structure and function of the central portal

Objective: Improve ease of reporting and accessing information in the Biosafety Clearing-House in response to identified needs of users.

Figure 12

The **Multi-year Program of Work** page provides information about the objectives and possible activities for each program element as decided by COP-MOP.

3.2.1.3 Decisions on the BCH

The link for **Decisions on the BCH** takes the user to a page which provides links to all BCH decisions taken by COP-MOP as well as at ICCP meetings before the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol.

The screenshot shows the 'Decisions on the BCH' page of the BCH Central Portal. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, The BCH, The Protocol, Finding Information, Registering Information, Resources, Help, and Country Profiles. On the left, a sidebar under 'The BCH' lists: Modalities of Operation, Multi-year Program of Work, Decisions on the BCH (which is selected), Development of the BCH, and BCH IAC. Under 'Highlights', it lists: BCH News, Latest Additions, Notifications (37), and Meetings and Documents (37). Under 'Policies', it lists: Linking External Websites Policy, Privacy Policy, and Disclaimer. The main content area displays a section titled 'COP-MOP Meetings' with a detailed description of the 'Third Meeting of the COP-MOP (13-17 March 2006, Curitiba, Brazil)'. It mentions decision BS-III/2 regarding operations and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House, including requests for collaboration with nodes, making decisions available, translating into UN languages, conducting an external security audit, and developing non-Internet mechanisms for access. Below this, there is a link to the full text of the decision and documents from the meeting. Another section below discusses the 'Second Meeting of the COP-MOP (30 May – 3 June 2005, Montreal, Canada)' and its decision BS-II/2 regarding a Multi-year Program of Work for the Operation of the BCH.

Figure 13

3.2.1.4 Development of the BCH

The link for Development of the BCH takes the user to a page which provides information about stages of development of the BCH from 2003 to the present. Each entry has a link to a notification document detailing the developmental milestones. For example, the 2006 notification of the offline version of the BCH (Notification 2006-124) shown here.

The screenshot shows two side-by-side web pages. On the left is the BCH homepage, featuring a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'The BCH', 'The Protocol', 'Finding Information', 'Submitting Information', 'Resources', and 'Help'. Below this is a sidebar with sections for 'The BCH' (Modality of Operation, Multi-year Program of Work, Decisions on the BCH, Development of the BCH, BCH-IAC), 'Highlights' (BOH News, Latest Additions, Notifications), and 'Policies' (Linking External Websites Policy, Privacy Policy, Disclaimer). The main content area displays a 'Development of the Biosafety Clearing-House' section with a yellow curved arrow graphic and a news item about a November 2007 release. On the right is an email from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CCBD) dated 31 October 2007. The email subject is 'NOTIFICATION New version of the Biosafety Clearing-House'. It announces the release of a new version of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) on 1 November 2007, with the URL <http://bch.cbd.int>. It details improvements in user-friendliness, search functions, and country profiles. The email also mentions the International Day for Biological Diversity and Biodiversity and Climate Change. The signature at the bottom is from Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary.

Figure 14

3.2.1.5 BCH-IAC

The link for **BCH-IAC** takes the user to the **BCH Informal Advisory Committee**.

The BCH Informal Advisory Committee provides guidance to the Executive Secretary with respect to resolution of technical issues associated with the ongoing development of the Biosafety Clearing-House. The BCH-IAC page provides information about IAC the meeting documents and summaries of the outcomes of each meeting.

Surfing the BCH Central Portal

The screenshot shows the 'The BCH Informal Advisory Committee (BCH-IAC)' page. It features a sidebar with links to 'Meetings of the BCH Informal Advisory Committee (IAC)', 'Third Meeting of the BCH-IAC (4-5 October 2007, Montreal, Canada)', and 'Second Meeting of the BCH-IAC (23-24 November 2006, Geneva, Switzerland)'. The main content area has a yellow arrow pointing from the 'Meetings' section towards the right side. The right side contains the 'Convention on Biological Diversity' logo and a summary of the third meeting, including the date (24 October 2007), location (Montreal, Canada), and agenda items.

Figure 15

3.2.2 Highlights

The section of the BCH Central Portal provides links to information that **highlights** the activities of the BCH.

3.2.2.1 BCH News

BCH News links the user to the **Latest News** section. It provides updates on changes to the BCH Central Portal. Registered users can register BCH news from this page by using the **Submit news** button.

The screenshot shows the 'Biosafety Clearing-House News' page. It features a sidebar with links to 'The BCH', 'The Protocol', 'Finding Information', 'Registering Information', 'Resources', 'Help', and 'Country Profiles...'. The main content area displays a news item titled 'Launch of the 2007 Survey on the BCH'. A yellow arrow points from the 'Biosafety Clearing-House News' title towards the 'Submit news' button at the bottom right.

Figure 16

At the bottom right of the **Biosafety Clearing-House News** page is a **Subscribe to the Rss feed** button, Rss that takes the user to the **RSS** News Items page. This page briefly describes the function of the feeds, provides a link to **Learn more about feeds** and provides a link to **Subscribe to this feed**.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Biosafety Clearing-House News' page. The left sidebar contains links for 'The BCH', 'Modality of Operation', 'Multi-year Program of Work', 'Decisions on the BCH', 'Development of the BCH', 'BCH IAC', 'Highlights' (which is currently selected), 'BCH News', 'Latest Additions' (highlighted in red), 'Notifications', 'Meetings and Documents', and 'Policies'. The main content area has a heading 'Launch of the 2007 Survey on the BCH' with a brief description. Below it is a box titled 'New developments include:' with a bulleted list of improvements. To the right of this box is a vertical sidebar with text about a system being developed by the International Capacity Building Project. At the bottom of the main content area, there is an XML snippet of an RSS feed entry for the 'Launch of the 2007 Survey on the BCH'. A yellow arrow points from the word 'RSS' in the XML code to a 'Subscribe to this feed' button, which is highlighted with a yellow oval.

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1" ?>
- <rss version="2.0">
- <channel>
  <title>Biosafety Clearing-House - Latest News</title>
  <description>Biosafety Clearing-House - Latest News</description>
  <link>http://bch.biodiv.org/news/news.shtml</link>
  <lastBuildDate>Fri, 14 Dec 2007 10:44:58 GMT</lastBuildDate>
  <docs>http://backend.userland.com/rss</docs>
  <generator>RSS.NET: http://www.rssdotnet.com/</generator>
- <item>
  <title>Launch of the 2007 Survey on the BCH</title>
  <description>In accordance with requests made by both the COP-MOP  
revamped BCH was released 1 December 2007. It is available at <a  
href="http://bch.cbd.int/survey/">http://bch.cbd.int/survey/</a>  
all BCH users, particularly with respect to user-friendliness and the  
will be collated and submitted for consideration by the Parties at their  
fourth meeting, being convened in Bonn 12-16 May 2008. This is being done as part of the review of the implementation of the  
work.</description>
  <link>http://bch.biodiv.org/news/info.shtml?postid=43409</link>
  <pubDate>Fri, 14 Dec 2007 10:44:58 GMT</pubDate>
...

```

Figure 17

3.2.2.2 Latest Additions

Latest Additions links the user to a page that displays the most recent additions to the databases. The information is updated every six hours.

Selecting a **Record ID** takes the user to the record page.

The screenshot shows the 'Latest Additions' section of the BCH Central Portal. A yellow arrow points from the 'Record information and status' panel to the 'Record ID' field in the table.

Date	Record ID	Holder and Type	Details
2008-01-31	11575	Indonesia National Biosafety Website or Database	Indonesian Institute of Sciences (http://www.indonesiabch.org)
2008-01-31	43760	Czech Republic National Biosafety Website or Database	Biosafety Clearing-House
2008-01-30	43759	Scientific Bibliographic Database	
2008-01-30	43758	Scientific Bibliographic Database	
2008-01-30	43757	Scientific Bibliographic Database	
2008-01-30	43756	Scientific Bibliographic Database	
2008-01-30	43755	Scientific Bibliographic Database	
2008-01-30	43754	Scientific Bibliographic Database	

Record information and status

Record ID	11575
Status	Published
Date of creation	2006-01-29 09:28 GMT (islamet@indo.net.id)
Date of last update	2008-01-31 14:25 GMT (juliana.costa@cbd.int)
Owner:	islamet@indo.net.id

General information

Country

- Indonesia

Organization / Website or database name

Indonesian Institute of Sciences (<http://www.indonesiabch.org>)

Figure 18

3.2.2.3 Notifications

The **Notifications** link takes the user to a page with a search interface that can be used to find notifications issued by the CBD Secretariat.. To search Notifications filed under the Protocol, select **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** from the **Subject Box** drop down menu and, where possible, refine the search with a word from the title of the document or the year the document was published. Click the **Go** button to obtain the search results. If the Notification Reference number is known, it can be entered into the 'reference' field and the Notification will be retrieved by clicking the **Go** button.

The screenshot shows the 'Notifications' section of the BCH Central Portal. A yellow arrow points from the search results page to a detailed view of a specific notification document.

Notifications Search Criteria:

- Subject: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Title Contains: [empty]
- Year: 2007
- Reference: [empty]
- Go

Results: 1 to 24 of 24 results found:

2007-12-18 [NEBD/CBCH/IG/2008/6/1315 \(2007-16\)](#)
Notification to National Focal Points for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, National Focal Points for the Convention on Biological Diversity
Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) Training Workshop, Bonn, Germany, 9-10 May 2008 (Prior to COP-MOP/4)
I am pleased to announce that the Secretariat, with the kind support of the UNEP-GEF Biosafety

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Ref.: SECRETARIAT/DOCUMENT
31 January 2008
NOTIFICATION
CALL FOR POSTERS
National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the 2010 Biodiversity Target
NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (COP-9)
18-30 May 2008 - Bonn, Germany

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat is pleased to announce that a poster session will be held during the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the theme of implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and their contribution to the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The session will provide an opportunity for Parties and others to share experiences and achievements related to NBSAPs and their implementation, an issue that has been a key focus of the in-depth review of the implementation of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan.

This initiative builds upon the successful poster session held at the second meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention. Posters prepared for that session are available at [http://www.cbd.int/review/posters/index.shtml](#).

Please indicate if you intend to present a poster by completing and returning the attached form by email to secretariate@cbd.int or by fax at +1 514 283-6598 in your earliest convenience and preferably no later than 3 April 2008.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

[original signed]
Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary

Figure 19

3.2.2.4 Meetings and Documents

The **Meetings and Documents** link takes the user to the **Calendar of SCBD Meetings** page where a list of upcoming meetings related to the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** can be accessed.

The search for meetings and documents can be refined by selecting specific search parameters such as country, year, month and words from the title.

The screenshot shows the 'Meetings' section of the BCH Central Portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to 'The Convention', 'The Protocol', 'Programmes', 'Mechanisms', 'Information', and 'Secretariat'. Below this is a 'INFORMATION' header with a 'News & Communications' sidebar containing links to 'What's New', 'Statements', 'Notifications', 'News Headlines', 'Press Releases', 'RSS Feeds', 'Photo Gallery', 'Video Gallery', and 'Discussion Forums'. The main content area displays the 'Calendar of SCBD Meetings' with a last update date of '25 January 2008'. It includes two search links: 'List of Upcoming SCBD Meetings' and 'List of Tentative Upcoming SCBD Meetings'. A 'Search Criteria' section allows users to filter meetings by 'Subject' (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety), 'Country' (<Any Country>), 'Year' (<Upcoming Meetings>), 'Month' (<Any Month>), and 'Title Contains' (with a 'Go' button).

Figure 20

3.2.3 Policies

The section on **Policies** provides links to information about the linking of external websites to the BCH, the privacy policy of the BCH and a disclaimer.

The screenshot shows the 'The Biosafety Clearing-House' page. The left sidebar has sections for 'The BCH' (Modality of Operation, Multi-year Program of Work, Decisions on the BCH, Development of the BCH, BOH IAC) and 'Highlights' (BOH News, Latest Additions, Notifications, Meetings and Documents). The 'Policies' section is highlighted with an oval and contains links to 'Linking External Websites Policy', 'Privacy Policy', and 'Disclaimer'. The main content area is titled 'The Biosafety Clearing-House' and 'Mandate'. It defines the term 'clearing-house' and states that Article 29, paragraph 1, of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety established the BCH as part of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It also lists the objectives of the BCH, which include facilitating the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and assisting Parties to implement the Protocol, taking into account the special needs of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition as well as countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity.

Figure 21

3.2.3.1 Linking External Websites Policy

The link for **Linking External Websites Policy** takes the user to a page which details how the Secretariat considers and selects sites for inclusion in the BCH Central Portal.

Figure 22

3.2.3.2 Privacy Policy

The link to **Privacy Policy** takes the user to a page which details how information submitted to the BCH is handled and how the BCH manages information about visitors to the BCH Central Portal.

Figure 23

3.2.3.3 Disclaimer

The link to **Disclaimer** takes the user to a page which notes that while every effort is made to provide accurate information, the accuracy of the information provided through the BCH is not guaranteed. Parties to the Convention, Governments and other users of the database are encouraged to bring errors, inaccuracies and omissions to the attention of the Secretariat.

The screenshot shows the BCH Central Portal's navigation bar with links to Home, The BCH, The Protocol, Finding Information, Registering Information, Resources, Help, and Country Profiles. The main content area is titled "Disclaimer". It includes a breadcrumb trail: Home | The BCH | Disclaimer. Below the title is a section titled "Disclaimer" with two numbered points:

- While Parties to the Convention, Governments and partner institutions have made every effort to provide accurate information, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity does not guarantee the accuracy of the information provided, and disclaims any responsibility for any inaccuracies of information or for any claim that may arise from the use of the information in the database.
- The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would like to encourage Parties to the Convention, Governments and any other user of this database to bring, any errors, inaccuracies and omissions detected, to its attention. Any comments regarding the form, content and utility of this database should also be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Figure 24

3.3 The Protocol

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

The Protocol link on the navigation bar provides access to information about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The screenshot shows the "The Protocol" page. The navigation bar is identical to Figure 24. The left sidebar under "The Protocol" includes links for Text of the Protocol, Parties to the Protocol, COP-MOP Decisions **, Reporting, Meetings and Documents **, and Notifications **. The main content area contains a detailed description of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, mentioning its adoption on January 29, 2000, its purpose to protect biological diversity from potential risks posed by living modified organisms, and its reference to an advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure.

Figure 25

This screenshot shows the same "The Protocol" page as Figure 25, but with a different visual style. The left sidebar is identical. The main content area has a larger title "The Protocol" and a sub-section "Introduction". The text describing the protocol is identical to Figure 25.

Figure 26

The Protocol page is divided into four sections that provide:

1. A brief introduction to the Protocol;
2. A short history of the development of the Protocol;
3. An explanation of the ICCP process; and
4. Related links to COP decisions, meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety and relevant publications.

The left hand menu on The Protocol page provides information in six areas:

1. Text of the Protocol;
2. Parties to the Protocol;
3. COP-MOP decisions;
4. Reporting;
5. Meeting and Documents;
6. Notifications.

3.3.1 Text of the Protocol

The link for **Text of the Protocol** takes the user to a page which provides links to the complete text of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the six official United Nations languages and in both MS Word and PDF format. Links are also provided to web pages reporting the text of each article of the Protocol.



Figure 27

3.3.2 Parties to the Protocol

The link for **Parties to the Protocol** takes the user to a page which provides a summary of the *status of ratification* and *entry into force* for each Party of the Protocol. The table lists countries that have signed, ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Protocol and the date at which the Protocol entered into force in each country. Each country name provides a link to the **Country Profile** which provides summary

information about all records registered in the BCH by that country.

The screenshot shows two pages from the BCH Central Portal. The top page is titled 'Parties to the Protocol' and contains a table of ratification dates for various countries. The bottom page is a 'Country Profile' for Algeria, displaying its profile information and status, and a table of document records.

Parties to the Protocol

Status of Ratification and Entry Into Force

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on 29 January 2000. In accordance with its Article 36, the Protocol was opened for signature at the United Nations Office at Nairobi by States and regional economic integration organizations from 19 to 26 May 2000, and remained open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 June 2000 to 4 June 2001. By that date the Protocol had received 103 signatures. The Protocol entered into force on 11 September 2003, ninety days after receipt of the 50th instrument of ratification (Article 37).

The list below contains the latest information concerning dates of signature, ratification, and entry into force received from the Depositary of the Protocol - the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The column entitled 'Ratification' indicates the dates when the instrument of ratification (rtf), acceptance (acp), approval (apv) or accession (acs) is deposited with the Depositary. The column entitled 'Entry into force' indicates the dates when the Protocol enters into force for respective State or regional economic integration organization, i.e. ninety days after it deposits instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.

#	Country	Date of signature	Date of ratification	Date of entry into force
1	Albania		Feb 08, 2005 ACS	May 09, 2005
2	Algeria	May 25, 2000	Aug 05, 2004 RTF	Nov 03, 2004
3	Antigua and Barbuda			

[Home](#) | [The Protocol](#) | [Parties to the Protocol](#) | [Country Profile](#)

Country Profile

Profile information and status

Country	Algeria
Date of signature	2000-05-25
Date of ratification	2004-08-05
Date of entry into force	2004-11-03
Profile revision	-
Profile status	Published
Profile last updated on	-

Type of document

Type of document	Number of records	Date of last update
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Focal Point	2	2008-01-25 15:09 UTC

Figure 28

3.3.3 COP-MOP Decisions

The link for **COP-MOP Decisions** takes the user to a page with a search interface for finding all decisions taken at all COP-MOP meetings.

Search COP-MOP Decisions

EOP-MOP 1 Decisions Full text
Arabic | Chinese | English | French | Russian | Spanish
Arabic | Chinese | English | French | Russian | Spanish

Show help | Search Decisions and Recommendations

Search Criteria

Biosafety-related subject: <Any subject>
COP-MOP Meeting
COP-MOP 3

Group results by: Meeting Date
Title Contains:
Go

Results 1 to 18 of 18 results found.

1. COP-MOP 3 (Cartagena, 13 - 17 March 2006)

BS-III/1 Compliance
Subject(s): Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Biosafety Subject(s): Compliance

BS-III/2 Operations and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House
Subject(s): Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Biosafety Subject(s): Biosafety Clearing-House

Back to Search Page | COP BS-III/1

BS-III/1. Compliance

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, taking note of the report of the second meeting of the Compliance Committee, in particular the recommendations of the Committee regarding general issues of compliance (UNEP/CBD/B/S/COP-MOP/3/2), recognizing that capacity-building is an essential element in supporting developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and Parties with economies in transition to comply with their obligations under the Protocol,

Recognizing also that it is too early to undertake the review of the effectiveness of the compliance procedure and mechanisms as provided for in section VII of the annex to decision BS-1/7,

Recalling paragraph 2 (d) of section VI of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as annexed to decision BS-1/7,

Taking note of the experience of other multilateral environmental agreements in addressing cases of repeated non-compliance within their respective compliance procedures and mechanisms, as presented in section II of the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/B/S/COP-MOP/3/2/Add.1),

Noting the absence of any submission to date of a case of non-compliance by a Party to the Protocol with respect to itself or with respect to another Party,

Recognizing the need to resolve the differences that emerged at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol regarding rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on voting in a manner that ensures efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee and the independence of its members in taking decisions,

1. Decides to undertake the review of the effectiveness of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance as provided for in section VII of decision BS-1/7, including addressing the issue of measures concerning repeated cases of non-compliance as well as rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Compliance Committee, at its fourth meeting within the framework of the overall evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol in accordance with Article 35 and in accordance with the modalities established in decision BS-III/15 of the present meeting regarding such evaluation;

Figure 29

The search criteria include biosafety-related subjects; a choice of COP-MOP meeting; keywords; or words in the title. The results can be grouped by meeting date or meeting group

Search COP-MOP Decisions

EOP-MOP 1 Decisions Full text
Arabic | Chinese | English | French | Russian | Spanish
Arabic | Chinese | English | French | Russian | Spanish

Show help | Search Decisions and Recommendations

Search Criteria

Biosafety-related subject: <Any subject>
Biosafety Cleaning-House
Budget
Capacity-building
Compliance
Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties
Cooperation agreements
Decision procedure
Entry into force
Financial mechanism and resources
Handling, transport, packaging and identification

Search Criteria

Biosafety-related subject: <Any subject>
COP-MOP Meeting
COP-MOP 3

Group results by: Meeting Date
Title Contains:
Go

Search Criteria

Biosafety-related subject: <Any subject>
COP-MOP Meeting
COP-MOP 3

Group results by: Meeting Date
Meeting Group
Go

Figure 30

3.3.4 Reporting

The **Reporting** link takes users to a page that provides links to

1. National Reports.
2. Annual Reports of the operation of the BCH.
3. Annual Reports of the operation of the Roster of Experts.

National Reports

Each Party is required, in accordance with [Article 33 of the Protocol](#), to monitor the implementation of its obligations under the Protocol and to report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) on measures taken to implement the Protocol. Paragraph 5 of Decision BS-1/9 requests Parties to submit their National Reports every 4 years and also to submit an interim report two years after the entry into force of the Protocol. The reports will be considered by the Parties at the meetings of the COP-MOP and therefore they should be submitted 12 months in advance of the meetings. Decision BS-1/9 also requests that the reports be submitted (in both hard copy and electronic format) in one of the official languages of the United Nations.

- **First Reports (2007):** In its [Decision BS-III/14](#), the COP-MOP approved a format for the first regular national report on implementation of the Protocol which is set out in its Annex. The deadline for submission of the first regular national reports was 11 September 2007.

Figure 31

3.3.4.1 National Reports

In the **National Reports** section of the **Reporting** page, national reports on the implementation of the Protocol can be accessed by selecting a country from the drop down menu in the text.

Reporting

National Reports

Each Party is required, in accordance with Article 33 of the Protocol, to monitor the implementation of its obligations under the Protocol and to report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) on measures taken to implement the Protocol. Paragraph 5 of Decision 85/19 requests Parties to submit their National Reports every 4 years and also to submit an interim report two years after the entry into force of the Protocol. The reports will be considered by the Parties at the meetings of the COP-MOP and therefore they should be submitted 12 months in advance of the meetings. Decision 85/19 also requests that the reports be submitted (in both hard copy and electronic format) in one of the official languages of the United Nations.

- First Reports (2007):** In its [Decision 85/III/14](#), the COP-MOP approved a format for the first regular national report on implementation of the Protocol which is set out in its Annex. The deadline for submission of the first regular national reports was 11 September 2007.

Please follow this link to access the Analyzer of First Regular National Reports on Implementation of the Protocol.

Swaziland

BCH Annual Reports

Annual reviews of the operation of the BCH are provided by the Secretariat at the end of each calendar year in accordance with [Section 9 \(reports on activities\) of the BCH's Modalities of Operation](#).

Search the BCH Annual Reports: <Select year>

Roster of Experts Annual Reports

Annual reviews of the operation of the Roster of Experts and the voluntary fund for the use of the roster are provided by the Secretariat at the end of each calendar year in accordance with [Decision 85/IV/4](#) of the COP-MOP.

Search the Roster of Experts Annual Reports: <Select year>

Figure 32

This section also provides links to the National Reports Analyzer. This is an electronic facility which is intended to assist users to aggregate and analyse data according to selected Parties, geographic areas, economic groups and other criteria.

First Report

Interim Report

National Reports of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Report Selection

Analyze by: Countries Countries (grouped by, Africa)

Please select countries to analyze in the box

Search for: English Only show the report matrix

National Reports of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Report Selection

Analyze by: Countries Countries (grouped by, Africa)

Please select countries to analyze in the box

Search for: English Only show the report matrix

Figure 33

On the Analyzer, the user can refine the search using known words in the questions or selecting the matrix languages used for the analyses. Selecting the **Go** button calls up the search results. These are tabled below the search facility.

The screenshot shows the 'Report Selection' interface. At the top, there is a radio button group labeled 'Analyze by' with two options: 'Country' (which is selected) and 'Country Group (eg. Africa)'. Below this, a message says '66 Countries' and 'Please use <Ctrl+Click> to select multiple items in the list'. A scrollable list box contains the names of 66 countries: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, and Belgium. Below the list is a search bar with the placeholder 'Search for [text] in the questions'. Underneath the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled 'Matrix language' set to 'English'. To the right of the dropdown is a checkbox labeled 'Only show the report matrix' and a 'Go' button.

Figure 34

This screenshot is identical to Figure 34, except the radio button for 'Country Group (eg. Africa)' is now selected instead of 'Country'. All other elements, including the country list, search bar, matrix language dropdown, checkbox, and 'Go' button, remain the same.

Figure 35

3.3.4.2 BCH Annual Reports

The **BCH Annual Reports** cover the operation of the BCH and are provided by the Secretariat at the end of each calendar year. These reports can be accessed by selecting the year of interest in the search box. Selecting a year in the search box takes the user to the relevant **Annual Report** page which provides the text of the report.

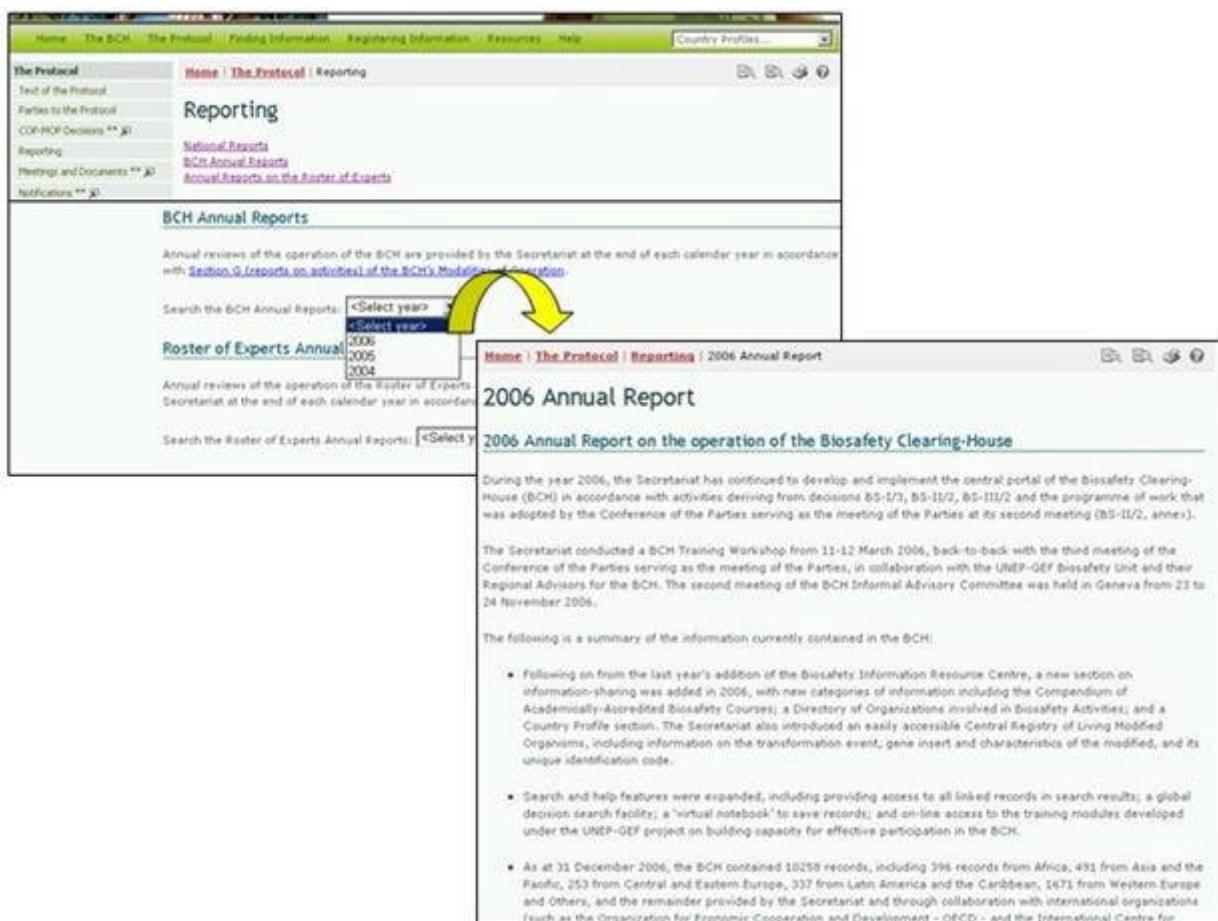


Figure 36

3.3.4.3 Roster of Experts Annual Reports

The **Roster of Experts Annual Reports** are provided each calendar year by the Secretariat and report on the operation of the Roster of Experts as well as the voluntary fund for the use of the roster.

The screenshot shows a web interface for the BCH Central Portal. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Protocol, Finding Information, Registering Information, Resources, Help, and Country Profiles. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: Home | The Protocol | Reporting. The main content area is titled 'Reporting' and has a sub-section 'Roster of Experts Annual Reports'. A note below states: 'Annual reviews of the operation of the Roster of Experts and the voluntary fund for the use of the roster are provided by the Secretariat at the end of each calendar year in accordance with [Decision BS-1/4](#) of the COP-MOP.' A search bar says 'Search the Roster of Experts Annual Reports: 2006'. To the right, a large yellow arrow points from the search dropdown to the report content. The report title is 'Report on the Roster of Experts on Biosafety for Year 2006'. It includes a brief summary and a table showing the regional breakdown of nominations.

Region	No. of Governments making nominations	No. of experts nominated	Percentage of total number of nominations
Africa	21	205	32%
Asia and the Pacific	19	138	22%
Central and Eastern Europe	12	90	14%
Latin America and the Caribbean	13	76	12%
Western Europe and Others	12	130	20%
TOTAL	77	639	100%

Figure 37

By using the drop down menu available in this section, it is possible to select the year of interest and access to the copy of the report for that year (in PDF format) .

3.3.5 Meetings and Documents

The link to **Meetings and Documents** takes the user to the **Calendar of SCBD Meetings** page that provides links to PDF copies of a list of upcoming SCBD meetings and a list of tentative upcoming SCBD meetings. The date of last update of these lists is provided above these links.

The **Calendar of SCBD Meetings** page also provides a search facility to identify meetings related to specific aspects of the CBD.

If the user selects **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** in the **Subject** box and clicks on **Go**, a list of past, confirmed and tentative meetings is provided below the search facility. The table of search results provides links to documents for the meetings, where these are available.

The search for meetings related to the Protocol can be refined by selecting specific search parameters such as the subject of the meeting; the country that hosted or will host the meeting; year; month and words from the title.

Home > Information > Meetings

Global Calendar | UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD Joint Calendar

Calendar of SCBD Meetings

Last Update: 25 January 2008

[List of Upcoming SCBD Meetings](#)

[List of Tentative Upcoming SCBD Meetings](#)

Search Criteria

Subject: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Country: <Any Country>
Year: <Upcoming Meetings> Month: <Any Month>

Title Contains:

Results 1 to 16 of 16 results found

2008

2008-01-30 en SCBD/OES/AD/moc/61798 (2008-013) <i>Notification to CBD National Focal Points – Asia and the Pacific Regional Group</i> Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 17-18 May 2008 – Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany I have the honour to inform you that, thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Spain, the Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place on 17-18 May 2008 at Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany. Subject(s): Conference of the Parties
2008-01-30 en SCBD/OES/AD/moc/61797 (2008-012) <i>Notification to CBD National Focal Points – Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Group</i> Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 17-18 May 2008 – Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany I have the honour to inform you that, thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Spain, the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place on 17-18 May 2008 at Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany. Subject(s): Conference of the Parties
2008-01-30 en SCBD/OES/AD/moc/61796 (2008-011) <i>Notification to CBD National Focal Points – African Regional Group</i> African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 17-18 May 2008 – Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany I have the honour to inform you that, thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Spain, the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place on 17-18 May 2008 at Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany. Subject(s): Conference of the Parties

Figure 38

3.3.6 Notifications

See **Notifications** (Section 3.2.2.3).

3.4 Finding Information

URL: <http://bch.cbd.int/database/>

The links to categories of information in the databases of the BCH Central Portal are provided in the **Finding Information** drop down menu on the navigation bar.

Surfing the BCH Central Portal

The screenshot shows the main navigation bar with links to Home, The BCH, The Protocol, Finding Information, Registering Information, Resources, and Help. The 'Finding Information' link is highlighted with a red oval. To the right of the main content area, there are several promotional banners: 'BCH Survey'07 Click here to participate...', 'November '07 RELEASE', and 'LMO & Gene Registry new'. The central content area features a 'Welcome to the BCH' message and a sidebar with news and account creation information.

Figure 39

Each category listed on this page links to a search interface that is designed to optimize the location of specific information. From the page of the search interface it is also possible to browse all entries in any one of the categories by utilizing a 'Browse all records' button.

This screenshot shows the 'Finding Information' section of the portal. The left sidebar lists categories: Finding Information, National Contacts, Laws and Regulations, Country's Decisions and other Communications, LMOs, Genes or Organisms, Roster of Experts, Capacity-Building, Biosafety Information Resource Centre, Scientific Bibliographic Database, and Organizations. The main content area displays detailed information for each category, such as 'National Contacts' (link to search for National Focal Points, Competent National Authorities, and National Biosafety Websites), 'Laws and Regulations' (link to search for National Laws, Regulations, and Agreements), and 'Capacity Building' (link to search for Biosafety Capacity Building Projects, Opportunities, Compendium of Academically-Accredited Biosafety Courses, and Capacity-Building Needs and Priorities). A 'Go' button is located at the bottom left of the sidebar.

Figure 40

The types of data stored in the BCH databases and instructions for finding information are detailed in Module MO04.

3.5 Registering Information

URL: <https://bch.cbd.int/member/signin.shtml?returnurl=%2fmanagementcentre%2fdefault.shtml>

The BCH Management Center provides a web-based mechanism to register, update, delete or correct information in the BCH databases. Registration of information through the Management Center is restricted to BCH National Focal Points for information related to national implementation of the Protocol as follows:

- Biosafety Experts
- Competent National Authorities
- Country Needs and Priorities
- Decisions on LMO for FFP under Article 11
- Decisions on LMO under Advance Informed Agreement
- Laws
- National Biosafety Websites or Databases
- Other Decisions or Declarations
- Regional or International Agreement
- Regulations or Guidelines
- Reports on Biosafety Expert Assignment
- National Risk Assessment reports

The Management Centre is available to all registered users for the other categories of information in the BCH (pending validation by the SCBD) as follows:

- Biosafety Courses
- Capacity Building Projects & Opportunities
- Biosafety International Organizations
- BCH News items
- Contact Information
- General Risk Assessment reports
- LMO / Gene / Parent or Donor Organism *Registries* items
- Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC) items

The Secretariat reserves the right to review and verify, prior to publication, all information submitted by BCH registered users. Contributions to the Scientific Bibliographic Biosafety Database are subject to validation by the International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

Detailed instructions on using the Management Centre are provided in Module MO06A.

The screenshot shows the 'Sign In to the Management Centre' page of the Biosafety Clearing-House Management Center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, The BCH, The Protocol, Finding Information, Registering Information (which is circled in red), Resources, Help, and Country Profiles... On the right side of the header are icons for print, email, and help.

The main content area has a heading 'Sign In to the Management Centre'. Below it, a text block states: 'The Biosafety Clearing-House Management Center provides an electronic, web-based mechanism to register, update, delete or correct information. Registration of information through the Management Center of the Biosafety Clearing-House is restricted, and access to this section of the web site is reserved for the BCH National Focal Points and other authorized users.'

A form for logging in is present, with fields for 'Registered email address' and 'Password', and a 'Sign In' button. There is also a 'Remember me' checkbox. To the right of the login form are two links: 'Sign Up for a BCH Account' and 'Forgot your password?'. Below these links, there is a note about validation by the BCH national focal point or the Secretariat.

Important Remarks

Any information submitted through the Management Centre should NOT include any confidential nor sensitive items as the objective is to make it publicly available on the Biosafety Clearing-House.

Before your submission is made publicly available, it must be validated by the BCH national focal point or the Secretariat. You will be sent an email confirming when the information has been uploaded to the database. Should you notice any significant difference between your submission and the information made available on the web site, please contact the Secretariat immediately by email to bch@biodiv.org.

The Management Centre is protected from unauthorized registration through a secure system of information exchange called Secure Socket Layer. It also uses a system of passwords to control access and use.

Figure 41

3.6 Resources

URL: <http://bch.cbd.int/resources/>

The **Resources** page of the BCH Central Portal contains sections which are meant either to help the user to interact with the Central Portal or to provide more general biosafety-related information. They are as follows:

1. Common formats;
2. Glossary;
3. Thesaurus;
4. Mailing lists;
5. Solutions for National Participation
6. Downloadable files;
7. Online Conferences; and
8. Site Map.



Figure 42

Resources

[Home](#) | [Resources](#)

Resources

Common Formats

When registering records in the BCH, common formats are used to standardize information and make searching the BCH databases easier and more efficient. To access all common formats for registering information in the BCH databases, please [follow this link](#).

Glossary

The glossary provides a list of definitions of common terms, acronyms and expressions used throughout the BCH website. To access the glossary, please [follow this link](#).

Thesaurus

The thesaurus is a list of pre-defined terms and related synonyms, or 'controlled vocabularies', used in a specific context. These terms are used to register and search for information in the BCH databases. A preferred use term in the controlled vocabulary is the term selected from among synonyms to be used for indexing and retrieval purposes. For example, maize is the preferred use term over corn in the BCH. To access the thesaurus, please [follow this link](#).

Mailing List

There are currently two listservs available through the BCH:

- the *BCH Current Awareness Service* which sends out regular updates summarizing new information that has been added to the BCH. It is sent directly to users by email (or to a specified fax number) and the categories of information included in the summaries, as well as the frequency of their delivery, are individually customizable for each user.
- the *BCH Information Technology Specialist Updates* which sends out information that is intended to be of use to IT professionals who are involved in (or intend to be involved in) maintaining databases or websites that are interoperable with the BCH. It will include periodic updates to changes in the BCH web service.

To subscribe to one of the BCH listservs, please [follow this link](#).

Downloadable files

To access downloadable files on National Contacts, National Reports and Roster of Experts, please [follow this link](#).

Site map

A detailed map of this site which may be useful to see how the site is organized. [Follow this link](#).

Figure 43

3.6.1 Common Formats

Common formats are provided to standardize the structure and organization of the information in the BCH databases. Use of these formats improves the efficiency of the BCH Central Portal and ensures easy and predictable access to information.

The common formats are the basis of the online entry forms in the Management Centre.

Common formats

Information is made available to the BCH by using standardized structures for organizing information known as common formats. Word files or PDFs of the common formats are available for download below (alternatively information may be reported directly online through use of the Management Centre).

[Sample formats](#) | [Core Forms](#) | [National Contacts](#) | [Laws and Regulations](#) | [Decisions and Declarations](#) | [Risk Assessments](#) | [Modified Organisms](#) | [Capacity-Building](#) | [Roster of Experts](#) | [Information-Sharing](#)

Sample formats

To download model common formats in each category that have been completed with sample information, follow this [link](#).

Core forms

- Contact Details Reference**
Common format for providing Contact Details for a person or organization, for reference when creating other records.
Latest edition: 14 February 2007.
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
- Organism (Non-modified)**
Common format for registering a parental, recipient or donor Organism. Latest edition: 14 February 2007.
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
- Inserted Gene**
Common format for registering an inserted gene. Latest edition: 29 January 2007.
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)

National Contacts

- National Focal Point**
Common format for registering a National Focal Point (Article 17, Article 19, Biosafety Clearing-House Focal Point). Latest edition: 31 January 2007.
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
- Competent National Authority**
Common format for registering a Competent National Authorities (Article 19). Latest edition: 31 January 2007.
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
- National Database or Website**
Common format for registering a National Database or Website (nb: records will also automatically be included in the Biosafety Information Resource Centre). Latest edition: 22 February 2007.
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)
 [ar](#) | [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#) | [ru](#) | [zh](#)

Figure 44

The **Common formats** page provides links to MS Word and PDF files of the common formats for the following categories of information:

1. Core forms
 - Contact Details Reference
 - Organism (Non-modified)
 - Inserted Gene
2. National Contacts
 - National Focal Point

- Competent National Authority
 - National Database or Website
3. Laws and Regulations
- National Law, Regulation or Guideline
 - Bilateral, Regional or International Agreement or Arrangement
4. Decisions and Declarations
- Decision on LMO under Advance Informed Agreement
 - Decision on LMO FFP under Article 11
 - Other Decision, Declaration or Notification
5. Risk Assessments
- Risk Assessment
6. Modified Organisms
- LMO - Unique Identification
7. Capacity-Building Activities
- Capacity-Building Needs and Priorities
 - Capacity-Building Opportunity
 - Capacity-Building Project
 - Academically-Accredited Biosafety Course
8. Roster of Experts
- Biosafety Expert
 - Report on Biosafety Expert Assignment
9. Information-Sharing and Other Resources
- Biosafety Information Resource
 - Biosafety Organization
 - Socioeconomic Consideration

3.6.2 Glossary

The **Glossary** links take the user to a page which provides a list of definitions of common terms, acronyms and expressions used throughout the BCH Central Portal.

The screenshot shows the 'Resources' section of the BCH Central Portal. In the left sidebar, under 'Resources', there are links for 'Common Formats', 'Glossary', 'Thesaurus', 'Mailing List', 'Downloadable Files', 'Online Conferences', and 'Site Map'. The 'Glossary' link is highlighted with a yellow oval. Below it, the text 'when registering records in the BCH, common formats make searching the BCH databases easier and more efficient. To access all common formats for registering information in the BCH databases, please follow this link.' is followed by a blue oval containing the text 'follow this link.'. At the bottom of the page, another red oval highlights the text 'To access the glossary, please follow this link.' followed by a blue oval containing the text 'follow this link.'.

Figure 45

At the top of the **Glossary** page an alphabetical bar linking to sections in the Glossary is provided and descriptions of all of the Glossary terms and their use are listed in alphabetical order.

3.6.3 Thesaurus

The Thesaurus provides a list of pre-defined terms and related synonyms, or ‘controlled vocabularies’, used in a specific context. These terms are used to register and search for information in the BCH databases.

By following the link in the **Resources** page, the user accesses the **Thesaurus Domains** page, which provides on its top a *search interface* and below it a *list of term domains* in alphabetical order.

The screenshot shows the 'Resources' section of the BCH Central Portal. In the left sidebar, under 'Resources', there are links for 'Common Formats', 'Glossary', 'Thesaurus' (which has a yellow arrow pointing to it), 'Mailing List', 'Downloadable Files', 'Online Conferences', and 'Site Map'. The 'Thesaurus' link is highlighted with a yellow arrow. The main content area displays the 'Thesaurus Domains' page, featuring a search interface with a title 'Search Thesaurus', a dropdown menu 'Filter by domain' set to 'All', and a search input field with a 'Search' button.

Figure 46

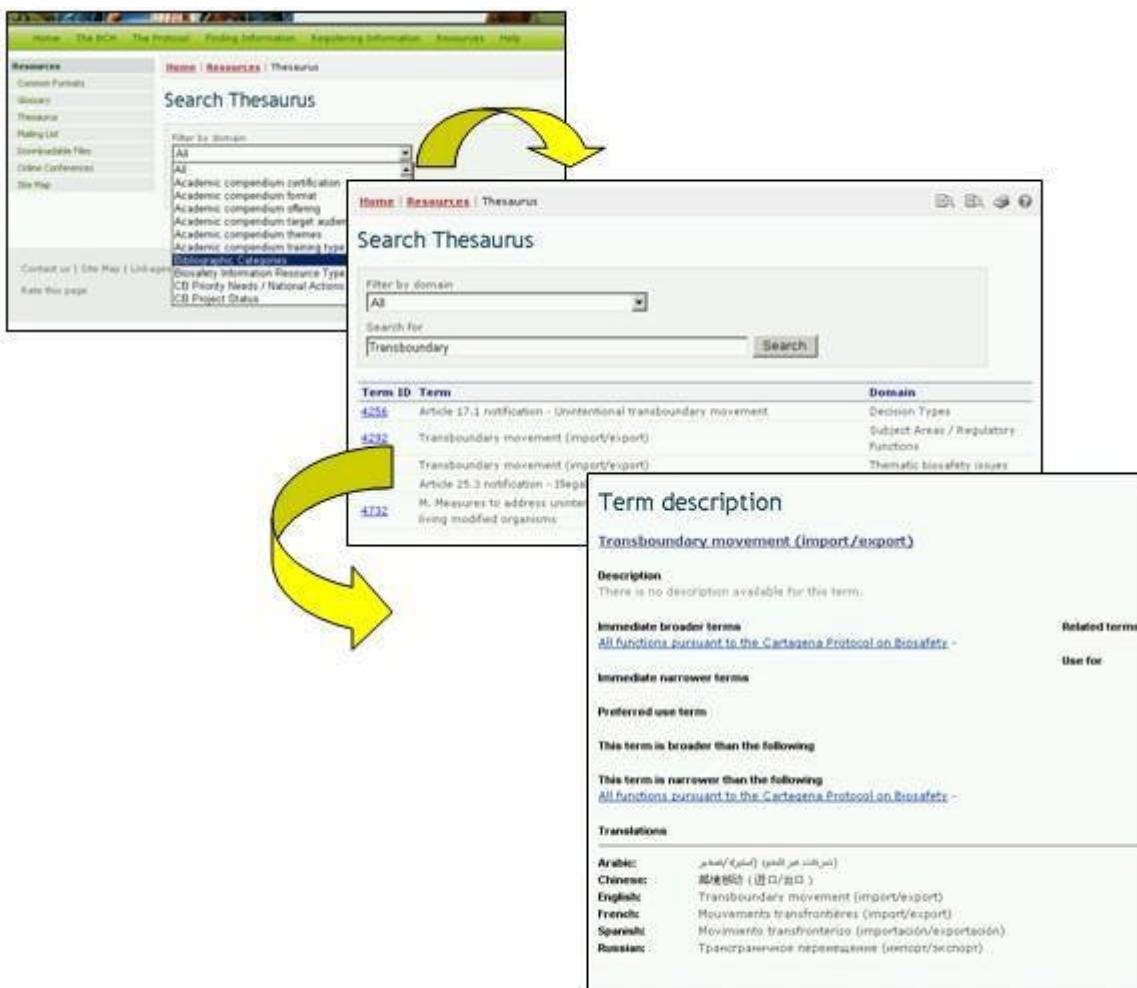


Figure 47

The **Search Thesaurus** interface provides a drop down menu for selection of domains within the Thesaurus and a box for use of keywords or terms in the search. The user enters the domain and/or keyword(s) of interest and selects the **Search** button.

In the results list, a term is selected from the **Term ID** column for more information about its use in the BCH Central Portal. This takes the user to the **Term description** record, which provides detail on the meaning of the term and how it is used in the BCH Central Portal, including broader, narrower and preferred uses of the term and translations into the six official UN languages.

Example: If a user wishes to understand the use of the term “transboundary” in activities related to the Protocol, the user enters the search terms “All” in the **Filter by domain** box and “transboundary” in the **Search for** box on the **Search Thesaurus** page. Selecting the **Search** button will provide a list of records describing how the term “transboundary” is used in various domains within the BCH Central Portal. The search results (in January 2008) identified five uses of the term in four domains within the BCH.

The screenshot shows the 'Search Thesaurus' interface. A search bar at the top contains the term 'Transboundary'. Below it is a table of search results:

Term ID	Term	Domain
4256	Article 17.1 notification - Unintentional transboundary movement	Decision Types
4252	Transboundary movement (import/export)	
4286	Transboundary movement (import/export)	
4593	Article 25.3 notification - Illegal transboundary	
4732	M. Measures to address unintentional and/or illegal living modified organisms.	

A red arrow points from the text 'Term description' to the detailed view of the term 'Transboundary movement (import/export)' on the right. This view includes sections for Description, Immediate broader terms, Immediate narrower terms, Preferred use term, Translations, Related terms, and Use for.

Figure 48

The *list of term domains* provides access to an alphabetical list of terms used in each domain. A key is provided to indicate which terms are ‘preferred’ or ‘non-preferred’.

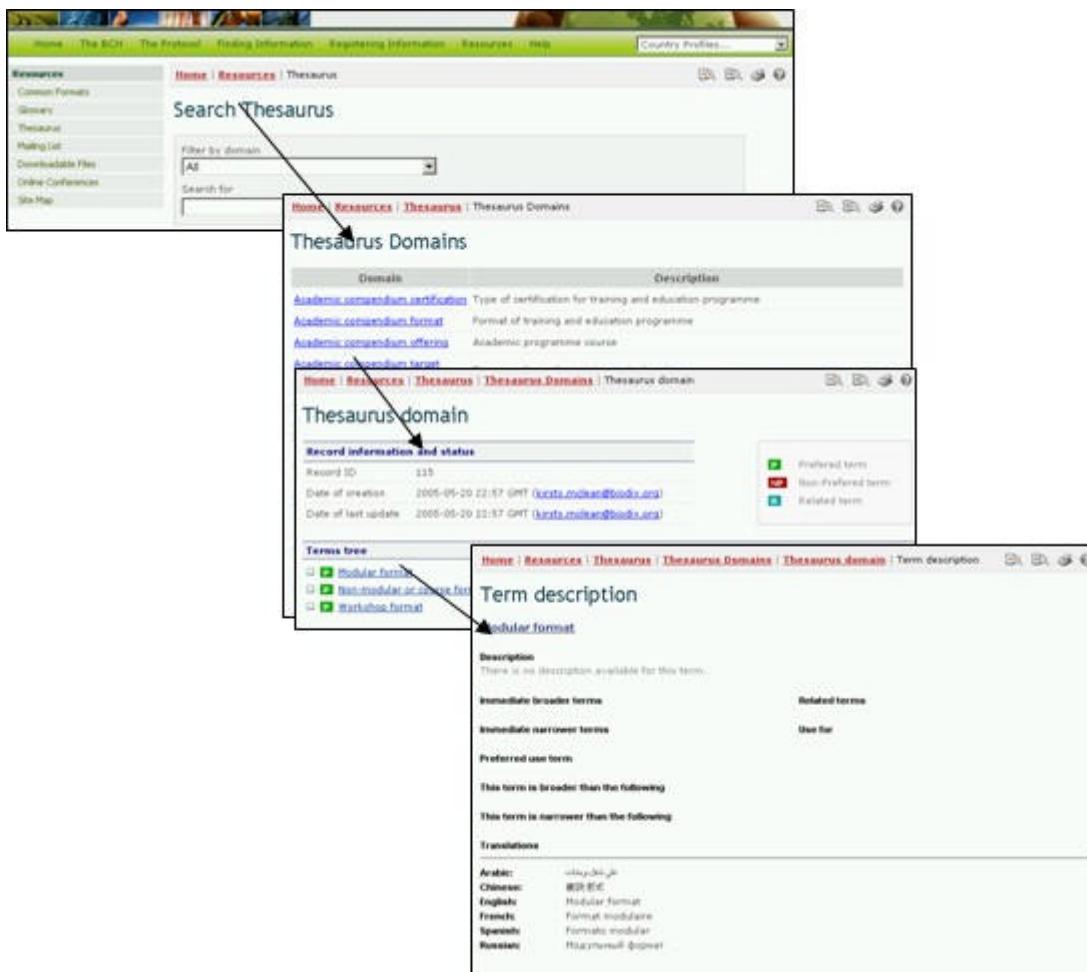


Figure 49

Selecting a term from the **Terms tree** list on the **Thesaurus Domains** page takes the user to the **Term Description** record. This record provides detail on the meaning of the term and how it is used in the BCH, including broader, narrower and preferred uses of the term and translations into the six official UN languages. Within a term description, the **preferred use term** in the controlled vocabulary is a term selected from among synonyms to be used for indexing and retrieval purposes. For example, maize is the preferred use term over corn in the BCH.

3.6.4 Solutions for National Participation (Hermes and the BCH Ajax Plug-In)

The **Solutions for National Participation** links take the user to a page which provides technical information (and links to the manuals) on Hermes and the BCH Ajax Plug-In.

Both of these solutions are aimed toward improving the ease of accessing information in the BCH in response to identified needs of users. They were created to assist countries developing their BCH national nodes to be interlinked and interoperable with the Central Portal.

3.6.5 Mailing List

The **Mailing List** provides access to the listservs that are available through the BCH Central Portal. Listservs are lists of e-mailing addresses for people who have signed up to receive regular information about a particular topic.

The **BCH Current Awareness Service** sends out regular updates summarizing new information that has been added to the BCH. While it is sent directly to users by e-mail, it is also possible to receive the updates by fax (please contact the Secretariat to enlist your fax number for this service).

The categories of information included in the current awareness summaries, as well as the frequency of their delivery, may be individually customized by each user.

The **BCH Information Technology Specialist Updates** sends out information that is intended to be of use to IT professionals who are involved in maintaining databases or websites that are interoperable with the BCH. It includes updates on changes to the BCH web service.

Mailing List

There are currently two listservs available through the BCH:

- the BCH Current Awareness Service which sends out regular updates summarizing new information that has been added to the BCH. It is sent directly to users by email (or to a specified fax number) and the categories of information included in the summaries, as well as the frequency of their delivery, are individually customizable for each user.
- the BCH Information Technology Specialist Updates which sends out information that is intended to be of use to IT professionals who are involved in (or intend to be involved in) maintaining databases or websites that are interoperable with the BCH. It will include periodic updates to changes in the BCH web service. (coming soon)

To subscribe to one of the BCH listservs, please [follow this link](#).

Mailing List

BCH Current Awareness Service

This listserv will send out summaries of new and updated records in BCH, in categories selected by the user. It is particular interest to regulators and national focal points. The Secretariat may also send out periodic notifications of interest in each category.

BCH Information Technology Specialist Updates

This listserv will send out information that is intended to be of use to IT professionals who are involved in (or intend to be involved in) maintaining databases or websites that are interoperable with the Central Portal of the BCH. It will include periodic updates to changes in the BCH web service. (coming soon)

Please select one of the following options:

- I already have a BCH account and want to subscribe to the BCH mailing lists (or change my current subscription).
- I do not yet have a BCH account and would like to sign-up for an account.*

* You will be taken to the BCH mailing list subscription page after registering.

Figure 50

The **Mailing List** page also provides links to subscribe to the available services or to manage/update user's subscriptions.

The first link takes the user to the **Sign In to the Management Centre** page. Once signed into the Management Centre the user may subscribe to a listserv.

The second link opens the **Sign Up for a BCH Account** page. Users register according to their affiliation with the BCH (e.g. BCH National Focal Point, Capacity-building Organization, Biosafety Expert, etc.)

Details on using the Management Centre are provided in Module MO06A.

follow this link...' A note below that says: 'Other users wishing to participate in the BCH should contact their BCH National Focal Point or the Secretariat for assistance.' A section titled 'Please select the type of account you are requesting.' contains five radio button options: 'BCH National Focal Point' (selected), 'National Authorized User', 'Registered Biosafety Expert', 'Capacity-building Organization', and 'General User Account' (selected). Each option has a detailed description. Below the radio buttons is a text area labeled 'Other - please provide details' with a scroll bar. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Continue' and 'Cancel request'."/>

Please note that any user can search the BCH databases and website WITHOUT an account, and that completion of this registration process is only necessary if you require the ability to register information with the BCH.

Creation of accounts for online registration of most information via the Management Centre is restricted to specific user categories.

A user ID and password can be requested by completing this online application process or by sending a signed letter or fax to the Secretariat. Certain types of accounts (e.g. BCH National Focal Points) may require additional verification before they can be created. Once registered, you will be sent a welcome message and a temporary password. If you would like further information about who should get a BCH user account then please [follow this link...](#)

Other users wishing to participate in the BCH should contact their BCH National Focal Point or the Secretariat for assistance.

Please select the type of account you are requesting.

BCH National Focal Point
Authorized by your government to register, modify and validate information under your jurisdiction. Please note that the Secretariat **MUST** receive official confirmation of your designation in this role before your National Focal Point account can be created.

National Authorized User
Authorized by your BCH National Focal Point to register and modify information under your jurisdiction. Please note that your BCH-NFP **MUST** authorize you in this role before your National Authorized User account can be created.

Registered Biosafety Expert
Authorized by your BCH National Focal Point to modify information pertaining to your own record in the Biosafety Roster of Experts. Please note that your BCH-NFP **MUST** authorize you in this role before your Registered Biosafety Expert account can be created.

Capacity-building Organization
Authorized by your organization to register and modify information pertaining to your records in the capacity-building projects and opportunities databases.

General User Account
A General User Account will allow you to select your preferences (default language and time zones), manage your subscriptions (BCH Current Awareness Services) and participate in the BCH discussion forums.

Other - please provide details

Other - please provide details

Continue Cancel request

Figure 51

3.6.6 Downloadable files

The **Downloadable Files** page provides access to files designed to help Parties fulfill their responsibilities with respect to the Protocol's information and reporting requirements. It also provides links to guidelines and templates for entering information. The downloadable files are available in MS Word and PDF format in the six official United Nations languages and are grouped as follows:

- Forms
- Biosafety Documents
- List of Competent National Authorities and National Focal Point Lists (updated daily)
- Roster of Experts Reports (updated daily) and summary statistics

The screenshot shows the 'Resources' menu on the left with 'Downloadable Files' selected. The main content area is titled 'Downloadable Files' and lists three items:

- 1. Interim Guidelines for the Pilot Phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety**
The pilot phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts is established to support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, to pay for the use of experts selected from the roster.
- 2. Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts**
The Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety explains the operations of the roster and the roles and responsibilities of the administrator (the Executive Secretary), nominating governments, and experts. The current version was endorsed by ICCP at its second meeting.
- 3. Roster of Experts nomination form**
This is a printable version of the Roster of Experts nomination form.

Each item has download links in multiple languages (ar, en, es, fr, ru, zh).

Figure 52

3.6.7 Online Conferences

The **Online Conferences** page provides access to the ongoing online conferences managed by the Secretariat. These conferences are organized to provide discussion and consultation platforms for Parties and interested stakeholders on specific aspects of the Protocol and its implementation.

The screenshot shows the 'Resources' menu on the left. The main content area is titled 'Online Conferences' and displays the message: 'Currently there are no on-line conferences.'

Figure 53

3.6.8 Site Map

A detailed **Site Map** is provided to show how the BCH Central Portal is organized.

A key identifies information categories that can be accessed via a searchable database and information that can be accessed only by a registered user.

Protocol Finding Information Registering Information Resources Help Country Profiles...    

[Home](#) | [Resources](#) | Site Map

Site Map

+ Indicates searchable database
* Requires user to be signed in

CENTRAL PORTAL AND PRIMARY DATABASES

SITE ADMINISTRATION	FINDING INFORMATION	FINDING INFORMATION	REGISTERING DATA	INFORMATION SHARING
		Organisms LMO database+ National Contacts National Focal Points+ Competent National Authorities+ National Websites and Databases+ Regulatory Information National Frameworks+ Capacity-Building Opportunities+ International Agreements and Regulations+ Decision Information All decisions and declarations+ Decisions under AIA+ Decisions under Article 11+ Other decisions+	Risk Assessment Summaries+ Management Centre Sign In Forgotten Password Sign Up for a BCH account Welcome* Manage your information* Register new information* Information Sharing and Networking Mechanism Action Plan Background Information Roster of Experts Biosafety Experts+	Management Centre Information sharing Biosafety Information Resource Centre+ Directory of Organizations+ Country Profiles+ Capacity-building Network BCH Current Awareness Service (listserv)
Home				
About this site				
Modalities of Operation				
Database sources				
Privacy policy				
Linked sites policy				
Disclaimer				
Biosafety Protocol				
Parties to the Protocol				
Clearing-house mechanism				
Reporting				
Protocol reports+				
BCH reports				
ROE reports				
Contact us				

Figure 54

Home | Resources | Site Map    

[Home](#) | [Resources](#) | Site Map

Site Map

+ Indicates searchable database
* Requires user to be signed in

CENTRAL PORTAL AND PRIMARY DATABASES

SITE ADMINISTRATION	FINDING INFORMATION	FINDING INFORMATION	REGISTERING DATA	INFORMATION SHARING
		Organisms LMO database+ National Contacts National Focal Points+ Competent National Authorities+ National Websites and Databases+ Regulatory Information National Frameworks+ Capacity-Building Opportunities+ International Agreements and Regulations+ Decision Information All decisions and declarations+ Decisions under AIA+ Decisions under Article 11+ Other decisions+	Risk Assessment Summaries+ Management Centre Sign In Forgotten Password Sign Up for a BCH account Welcome* Manage your information* Register new information* Information Sharing and Networking Mechanism Action Plan Background Information Roster of Experts Biosafety Experts+	Management Centre Information sharing Biosafety Information Resource Centre+ Directory of Organizations+ Country Profiles+ Capacity-building Network BCH Current Awareness Service (listserv)
Home				
About this site				
Modalities of Operation				
Database sources				
Privacy policy				
Linked sites policy				

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NEWS	HELP	SEARCH FEATURES	BCH THESAURUS	OTHER RESOURCES
News Latest additions to the database BCH News Biosafety in the media National News Items Secretariat Notifications Upcoming biosafety meetings	Help FAQ Guide to the BCH BCH Training Modules BCH Training Site (Old) Toolkit Glossary Site map	Search Search BCH databases+ and thesauri+ Search BCH and national vocabulary and websites Search hints Virtual notebook Downloading results Linked records	BCH Thesaurus Controlled vocabulary About the controlled thesaurus Browse the thesaurus Source vocabularies Webservices Updates Propose a term	Discussion forums General discussions Technical discussions Online conferences Current conference Archives Downloads Downloadable Files Common Formats HTPI Documentation Web hosting information

Figure 55

3.7 Help

URL: <http://bch.cbd.int/help/>

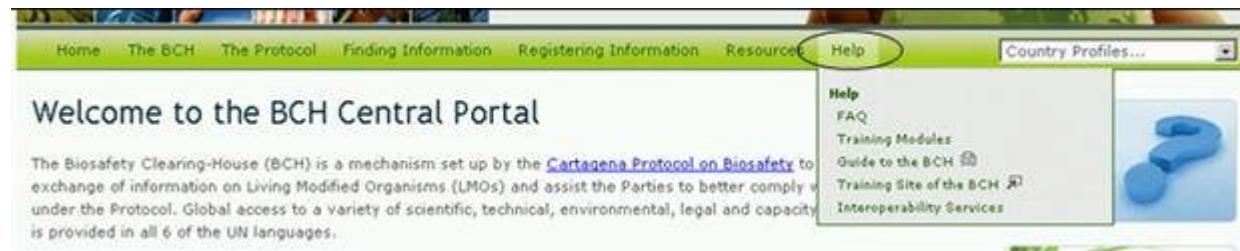


Figure 56

The **Help** page of the BCH Central Portal guides the user to five sections that provide assistance:

1. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the BCH;
2. BCH Training Modules;
3. Guide to the BCH (brochure);
4. BCH Training Site;
5. Interoperability Services Documentation.

Figure 57

3.7.1 FAQ

The **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQ) page lists the answers to commonly asked questions regarding the BCH. The answers provide links to articles in the Protocol and to other information available through the BCH.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is a Clearing-House?

The term "clearing-house" was originally used mainly in the banking sector, where it referred to a financial establishment where checks and bills were exchanged among member banks so that only the net balances needed to be settled in cash. Today, its meaning has been extended to include any agency that brings together seekers and providers of goods, services or information, thus matching demand with supply.

2. What is the Biosafety Clearing-House of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?

[Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Biosafety Protocol](#) established a Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) to:

- (a) Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and
- (b) Assist Parties to implement the Protocol, taking into account the special needs of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, as well as countries that are centers of origin and centers of genetic diversity.

In addition to facilitating general exchange of information, the BCH is established as the only means through which Parties can provide certain information required under the Protocol, including information provided by Parties for the advance...

Figure 58

3.7.2 Training Modules

The BCH **Training Modules** were developed under the UNEP-GEF BCH project, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (SCBD). The content was provided and reviewed by world-renowned experts in the field.

BCH Training Modules

BCH Training Modules

Five training modules were developed under the [UNEP-GEF Biosafety Clearing-House project](#), in collaboration with the [United Nations Institute for Training and Research \(UNITAR\)](#) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (SCBD), with content provided and reviewed by world-renowned experts in the field.

 An introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	<p>Module 1: An introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p> <p>This module briefly outlines some of the key elements of the Cartagena Protocol that are of importance for the Biosafety Clearing House. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • briefs on the background to and purpose of the Protocol; • working procedures that apply; and • institutional and administrative arrangements.
 An introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	<p>Module 2: An introduction to the Biosafety Clearing-House</p> <p>This module briefly addresses the requirements in the Protocol for a Party to make specific kinds of information available to the BCH. It seeks to explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose and functioning of the BCH; • the various categories of information available on the BCH, with regard to information that a Party is required to post on the BCH; • what information is required, and when it may need to be made available on the BCH

Figure 59

The Training Modules are provided in three formats:

1. The BCH Training Modules;

2. The Interactive BCH Training Modules; and
3. The UNEP-GEF Training Workshop Manual

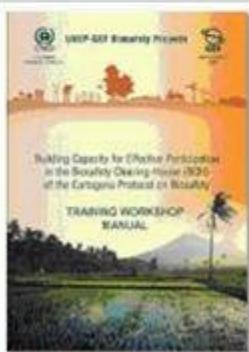
The **BCH Training Modules** are a series of five modules that provide an introduction to:

1. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
2. The Biosafety Clearing House;
3. The BCH Central Portal;
4. Finding Information about the BCH Central Portal; and
5. Registering Information about the BCH Central Portal

The **Interactive BCH Training Modules** are designed to be used in conjunction with the UNEP-GEF training manual to train participants during a workshop.

Interactive BCH Training Modules

Two interactive BCH training modules are available that are designed to enable users to understand the concepts in a hands-on manner. The modules are designed to be used in conjunction with the [UNEP-GEF training module](#) to train participants during a training workshop. The modules are designed in Macromedia Flash and are very intuitive to use. However, these modules should be installed locally, their execution through the internet is not recommended because of the large file size.



[Interactive Module 1: Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#)

[Interactive Module 2: Introduction to the Biosafety Clearing-House](#)

Figure 60

The **UNEP-GEF Training Workshop Manual** is designed to give trainers an overview of the whole training process and to provide them with insight into some of the areas that should be covered when they are conducting BCH training workshops. The complete online training workshop module provides guidelines on how a BCH training program can be conducted.

3.7.3 Guide to the BCH

The **Guide to the BCH** is a short brochure in PDF format that introduces the functions of the BCH.

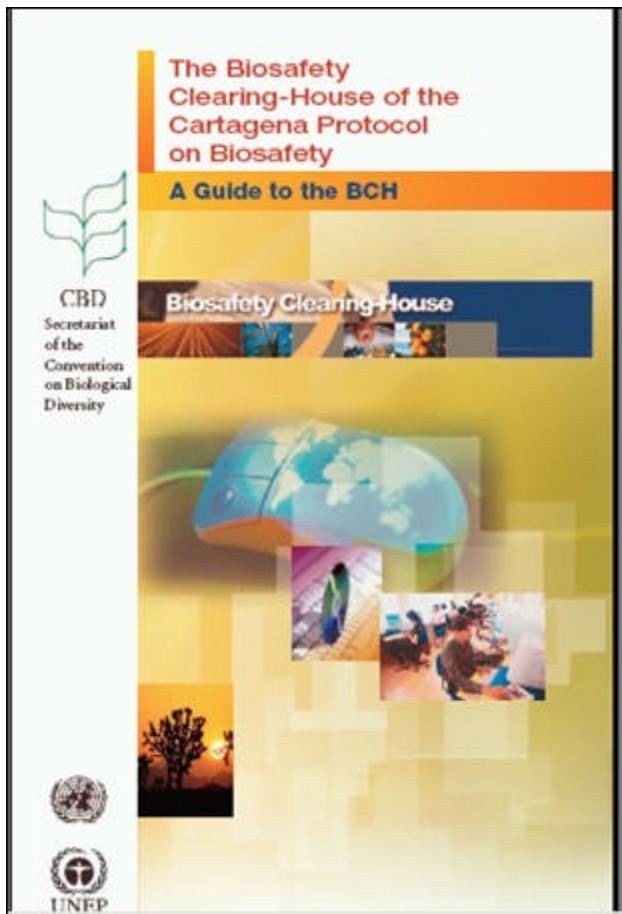


Figure 61

3.7.4 Training Site of the BCH

The **Training Site of the BCH** is designed to help BCH users familiarize themselves with the functioning of the Management Center without affecting the official BCH Central Portal.

In order to access the Training Site, users require BCH training accounts (which are provided upon request to the Secretariat).

Welcome to the Training Site of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

This **Training Site** has been implemented to help BCH users familiarize themselves with the functioning of the BCH's Management Center.

The information registered on the **Training Site** does not affect the official BCH site and, because the site is secure, it is not made publicly available. Similarly, the information registered on the official BCH site is not always available on the **Training Site**.

In order to use the **Training Site** you require a BCH training account. When your account is activated you are issued a password that provides access.

If you have a BCH account and would like to use the Management Centre, please sign in now:

Email Address / Account ID: _____ Remember me

Password: _____

Request a BCH Training Account
If you don't have an account and you wish to use the BCH Training Site please [contact us](#).

Forgot your password?
If you have an account, but have forgotten your password, please [contact us](#) to have a new password sent to you.

Figure 62

The sign in page provides three additional, useful links for:

1. Opening a training account
2. Obtaining a reminder about a password
3. Access to the official BCH site.



Figure 63

3.7.5 Interoperability Services

The BCH *Interoperability Services* documentation provides technical information about interoperability with the BCH including information about version 3.0 of the BCH Web Service, XML Schemas and Controlled Vocabularies. It also provides Quick Starts in VBA, C4, VB.NET, JAVA, PYTHON and PERL and relevant articles.

The page provides links to Quick Starts; XML Schemas and Web Service Methods.

BCH Interoperability Services 3.0

WSDL: <http://bch.biodiv.org/service/3.0/service.asmx?WSDL>

Quick Starts	XML Schemas
Examples are available in: VBA, C#, VB.NET, JAVA, PYTHON, PERL	National Contacts National Focal Point (focalPoint.xsd) Competent National Authority (authority.xsd) National Website or Database (nationalDatabase.xsd)
Verifying login and password	
Validating a XML document	
Registering a Decision under A11	Laws and Regulations
Retrieving a previously registered document	National Law, Regulation or Guideline (law.xsd)
Unregister document	Bilateral, Regional or Multilateral Agreement (agreement.xsd)
Querying the BCH for documents	
Retrieving list of BCH Thesaurus terms	Organisms, Decisions and Declarations
BCH Web Service Utility 3.0	Unique Identification (modifiedOrganism.xsd)
BCH Web Service Utility 3.0 Application project	Decision under AIA (decisionUnderAIA.xsd)
C# project sample	Decision under Article 11 (decisionUnderA11.xsd)
Step by Step Microsoft Visual studio 2005 C# project guide	Other Decision or Declarations (decision.xsd)
Java (J2SE 5.0, Apache Axis 1.4)	Risk Assessment (riskAssessment.xsd)
Generating BCH Web Service Stub using WSDL2Java	
Thesaurus SQL Scripts	Roster of Experts
Web Service Methods	Biosafety Expert (biosafetyExpert.xsd)
	Others
	Contact (contact.xsd)
	Organism (organism.xsd)
	BIRC resource (resource.xsd)

Figure 64

3.8 Managing Search Results

This section shows several options to sort results and the usage of XML in order to export results to interoperate with other systems.

3.8.1 Sorting Results

To change how the results of a search are sorted, the user can select one of the options from the drop-down menu, **Sort results by**, that appears at the top of any search results page. The list of options will include only those options that are relevant to the type of search the user has conducted.

The screenshot shows the 'Finding Information' section of the BCH Central Portal. A dropdown menu titled 'Sort records by' is open, showing options: Country, Date of last update, Last name, and Organization name. The 'Country' option is selected. The main area displays search results for 'Jordan'. Record 8742 is listed as 'National Focal Point' with contact 'H.E. Eng. Faris Alijundi' and source 'SCBD'. Record 8743 is also listed as 'National Focal Point' with contact 'H.E. Khaled Anis Irani' and source 'SCBD'. Navigation buttons like '< Previous | 1 | Next >' are visible.

ID	Record	Contact	Source
8742	Jordan National Focal Point	H.E. Eng. Faris Alijundi	SCBD
8743	Jordan National Focal Point	H.E. Khaled Anis Irani	SCBD

Figure 65

The sorting options that may be available to users include the following:

Country: Displays search results alphabetically by country name;

Date of last update: Displays search results by the date they were added or updated, with the most recently modified records appearing first;

Last name: Displays search results alphabetically by last name of the person or contact point;

LMO trait: Displays search results alphabetically by introduced trait or characteristic. (For a full list of introduced traits, see the 'LMO traits' domain in the BCH Thesaurus);

Name of the gene: Displays search results alphabetically by name of the inserted gene. (For a full list and description of inserted genes, see the Gene Registry);

Organism name: Displays search results alphabetically by name of the parental, recipient or donor organism (For a full list and description of organisms in the BCH, see the Organisms Registry);

Organization name: Displays search results alphabetically by name of the organization (organizations may include competent national authorities or biosafety organizations);

Start date: Displays search results by the date on which capacity-building projects or opportunities will start;

Subject area: Displays search results grouped according to the subject area addressed (e.g.. type of LMO, or intended use);

Taxonomic status: Displays search results alphabetically according to the scientific name of the organism;

Technique used: Displays search results alphabetically by the technique used to introduce the modification;

Title: Displays search results alphabetically by the title of the record;

Type of record: Displays search results grouped according to the type of record;

Unique identification: Displays search results alpha-numerically by the unique identification code. (For a full list and description of unique identification codes, see the LMOs-Ulids Registry.)

3.8.2 Exporting results to XML

The user can export or download information from the BCH Central Portal to use in other applications by using the **Export Results** function. The exported information is provided in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format, a general-purpose *specification* for creating custom markup languages. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the sharing of data across different systems, particularly systems connected via the Internet.

The export facility is found at the bottom of each **Search results** page and each record.

The user can select the **Export Results** function to export either individual records or the results of a database search. These results can be imported into another program such as a word processor or spreadsheet.

The screenshot shows the 'Search results' page of the BCH Central Portal. A yellow arrow points from the search results table to a detailed record page for 'Biosafety Expert'. The search results table lists three records from Barbados:

ID	Name	Type
374	Dr. Wendy O. Hollingshead	Biosafety Expert
654	Dr. Cyril Sebastian Roberts	Biosafety Expert
456	Prof. Leonard Wellington	Biosafety Expert

The detailed record page for 'Biosafety Expert' (Record ID 456) contains the following information:

- Record information and status:** Published, created on 2003-06-18 21:05 GMT, last updated on 2006-09-21 21:04 GMT, owned by logans@umichill.edu.bb.
- General information:** Country of the Government making the nomination: Barbados.
- Person Details:** Prof. Leonard Wellington O'Garro, Professor of Plant Pathology, University of West Indies, Dept. of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Cave Hill Campus, University of West Indies.
- Coordinates:** Not specified.
- Additional Information:**
 - Other research activities:**
 - Active collaborative research programme with Ministries of Agriculture in the OECS and Barbados since 1992 on issues of paper, tonello, moist and papaya.
 - Coordination and delivery of three practical training courses, each of 4 months duration, to plant pathologists in the OECS and Barbados (1993-95).
 - Provided an organizational structure for an Agricultural Research Unit proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Grenada upon request for assistance from the Grenada Government (1995).
 - Founder of the Agricultural Research Fund of the Barbados Society for Technologists in Agriculture. The fund, which is the first of its kind in Barbados, provides small research grants for scientific research. (1996)
 - Implemented a programme of research support to control yam anthracnose in Dominica (2000-1).
 - Provided research support to Grenada and St. Lucia for expansion of papaya cultivation through control of bunchy top and bacterial leaf blight. In Grenada, commercial papaya cultivation has resulted an selected farms.
 - Research support for large scale cultivation of arithrum under forest canopy in St. Lucia to prevent deforestation. Arithrum culture requires shade which could be provided by forest canopy. The research support includes identifying specific agroforestry conditions favouring optimum arithrum productivity in both yield and quality and providing disease-free arithrum plants for the project.

Figure 66