

Biosafety



The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity seeks to protect biological diversity and human health from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.

United Nations Environment provides technical assistance to Member States to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by enhancing the capacity of national governments in close partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat and other relevant agencies and stakeholders with support from the Global Environment Facility.

Objectives of UN Environment interventions

- Assist Governments in the establishment legal, administrative, technical and institutional Frameworks for Biosafety to address national needs and priorities to fulfil their obligations to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- Support Parties by enhancing institutional and human capacities for Biosafety compliance including decision making, information sharing and management at national, regional and global levels.

Supporting Activities

- Development and implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks at national and regional levels (more than 60 countries are receiving support).
- Preparation of National Biosafety Reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- UN Environment is currently supporting the Third Reporting cycle in 129 Countries.
- In addition, 50 Countries have been supported to enhance their capacities in the implementation of the Biosafety Clearing House.

Future Plans

Over the next four years UN Environment in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility will:

- Provide support to eligible parties on the implementation of their National/and or Regional Biosafety Frameworks.
- Support parties on thematic or issue based elements to strengthen and support biosafety decision making at the national, regional and global levels in areas including risk assessment and risk management, the Biosafety Clearing House, long term monitoring and inspection, socio-economics, liability and redress, new and emerging issues as per the guidance of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP).
- Provide capacity building assistance to 76 developing countries and countries with economies in transition to sustain effective participation to the Biosafety Clearing House.
- Support to the 4th National Biosafety Reporting.

For More Information: UNEP Law Division web site: <http://www.unep.org/delc/Home/tabid/6092/Default.aspx>
The UNEP Biosafety Website: <http://www.unep.org/biosafety/>

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