



UNEP-GEF PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE (BCH III)

Objectives:

- The objective of BCH-III is to “ramp up and sustain the effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of Parties that are eligible for GEF funding”.
- To ensure that participating countries have established sustainable national procedures to gather information to put on the BCH, and
- To establish expertise to use, access and participate efficiently in the BCH at the national level.

This will ultimately improve countries’ compliance with the Protocol while ensuring safer handling and use of LMOs and therefore enhancing the conservation of biodiversity globally.

Contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals

- **SDG 12 (target 12.8)**: Improving national awareness, intersectoral coordination and institutional expertise in registering and retrieving Biosafety related data in the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for decision makers, key stakeholders and the public
- **SDG 15 (target 15.8)**: Assist countries to take scientifically sound decisions regarding the introduction of Living Modified Organisms in their agricultural systems and environment through the effective exchange of information via the BCH

Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets

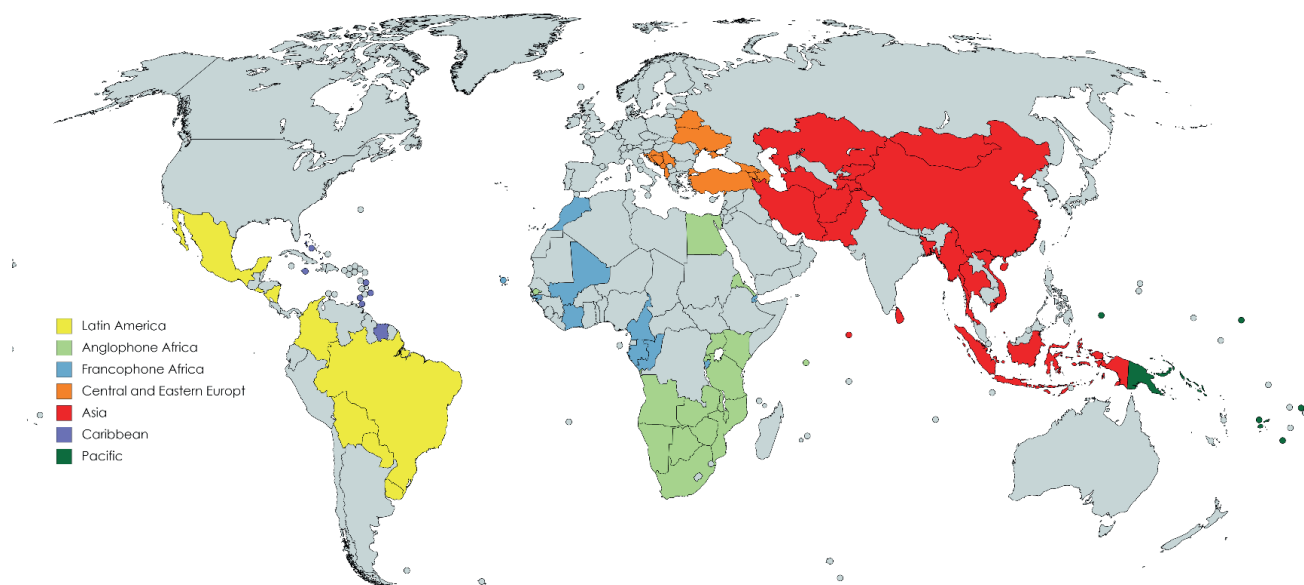
- **Target 17**: Assist Parties to develop and implement regional and national strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- **Target 19**: Create a permanent knowledge base for the practical application of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the various key stakeholders including the general public

Project’s results :

- UN Environment and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) **trained 60 BCH National Focal Points** in seven regional workshops for Anglophone and Francophone Africa (22 participants from 22 countries); Caribbean (8 participants from 7 countries); Pacific (7 participants from 7 countries) Central and Eastern Europe (8 participants from 7 countries); Asia (20 participants from 20 countries, of which 9 are BCH III countries) and Latin America (10 participants from 8 countries).
- UN Environment has **concluded SSFAs with 35 Countries** with the aim of consolidating and intensifying cooperation to achieve the common goals and objectives of enhancing availability and exchange of relevant information through the BCH as outlined in objective 5 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 2011 – 2020.
- Thus, **26 National workshops for biosafety stakeholders** have been organized with the assistance of the Regional Advisors network. Key stakeholders, which included government representatives, industry, importers, and other relevant stakeholders were trained on the technical national BCH responsibilities and left with a clear understanding of the common formats of BCH records and their impact on the institutional processes for creating and registering BCH information while making sound biosafety related decisions.

Project's results :

- All project activities are supported by the **BCH III Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** which holds knowledge assessments and an extensive amount of training manuals and materials. The VLE currently **holds 32 training modules in 4 Languages**, of which 4 are public, 5 for regional networking, 19 National courses and 4 webinar courses.
- UN Environment organized **8 public webinars** on “the introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”, “Finding and Registering information on the BCH” and the “Cartagena Protocol roster of experts” in English, French, Spanish and Arabic which were attended by over 85 Biosafety experts, BCH regional advisors and national focal points.



Links to websites for further information:

Biosafety Clearing-House: <https://bch.cbd.int>

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol>

For more information on the BCH III project: <https://unenvironment.org/explore-topics/biosafety>

<http://www.facebook.com/sustainablebch3>

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Partners



Convention on
Biological Diversity

