

// THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

The Convention created the «clearing-house mechanism» (CHM) to enhance cooperation between countries. The CHM ensures, i.a. via the Internet, that all stakeholders have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity.

The mission of the CHM is to...

- develop a global mechanism for exchanging information and best practices,
- promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation,
- develop the necessary human and technological network.

How does it work? The CHM...

- supports decision-making,
- is needs-driven,
- is structurally decentralized,
- is compatible with different levels of national capacity,
- is created for the mutual benefit of all participants.

What is a clearing-house?

It is an instrument that brings together seekers and providers of goods, services or information, thus matching demand with supply.

CHM be

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Partnering role for the clearing-house mechanism
Belgian national focal point to the Convention
on Biological Diversity

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// PARTNERING INFORMATION :

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CHM be

THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND THE
BELGIAN PARTNERING ROLE





// THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

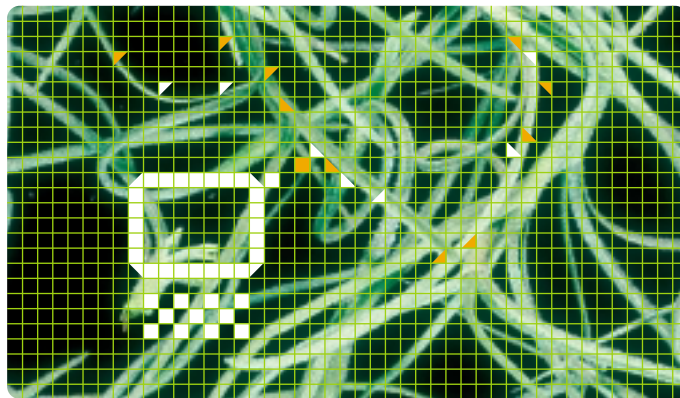
Biological diversity - the diversity of life - forms the vital natural capital of the Earth. Increasing human activities have negative impacts on this natural heritage and threaten the foundations of a viable and sustainable development.

An important step towards the preservation of our natural environment is the commitment made during the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro (1992) to ratify and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity. This legally binding agreement has three objectives :

- the conservation of biological diversity,
- the sustainable use of its components,
- the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

// MORE INFORMATION :

<http://www.biodiv.org>



// THE BELGIAN PARTNERING ROLE

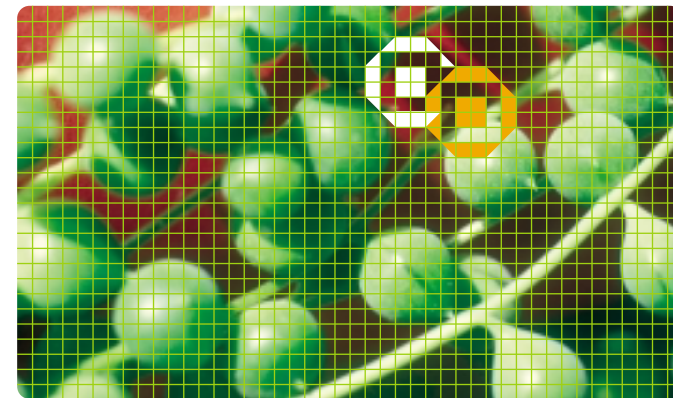
The sharing of information and the exchange of experiences is one of the backbones of a successful implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As a partner country, Belgium contributes to its obligations under the Convention by helping to make broad participation and easy access a top priority.

The Belgian national focal point assists non-web connected partners to initiate Internet aspects of their clearing-house mechanism, by :

- developing and hosting websites for partner countries,
- organizing training courses for webmasters of partner countries.

The partnering continues until the partner country gathers the necessary funds and equipment to host and manage its website on its own national Internet server.

The Belgian partnering role started in 1998 with a request from the Democratic Republic of Congo to create and host the website of their national clearing-house. Since then, Belgium has built successful partnerships with many other countries.



// PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Belgium **hosts** the website of the partner country. The partner develops and manages the site.

Belgium **develops and hosts** a standardized website. The partner country provides information.

The Belgian national focal point **gives advice** on the content and technical development of the website.

Belgium **hosts mirror sites** of the partner website. The mirror site is a copy of the website, so that in case of a technical breakdown, the Internet traffic is redirected to this copy.

The Belgian national focal point organizes personalized **training courses** for webmasters. Participants learn how to build an Internet-based clearing-house and present the most relevant biodiversity related information.

The Belgian national focal point to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety offers **training for the biosafety clearing-house**.