

United Nations Climate Change Conference

UNFCCC COP 15 7 - 18 December 2009

Copenhagen, Denmark

The Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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Presentation Objective

Introduce the

Clearing-House Mechanism

of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- its context & background
- its network & services
- its expected future







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Content

Biodiversity

- What it is
- Why it is important

CHM Mandate Within the CBD

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Its Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)

CHM Network & Services

- National & Regional
- Central

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- Challenges & Opportunities
- Next Steps







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What is Biodiversity?

Every form of life

- from the smallest microbe
- to the largest animal

and

The ecosystems of which they are part

- Forests, deserts
- Pastures, farmers' fields, home gardens
- Rivers, lakes and oceans

Organisms occupy virtually

- Every cm² of the planet
- Every imaginable niche











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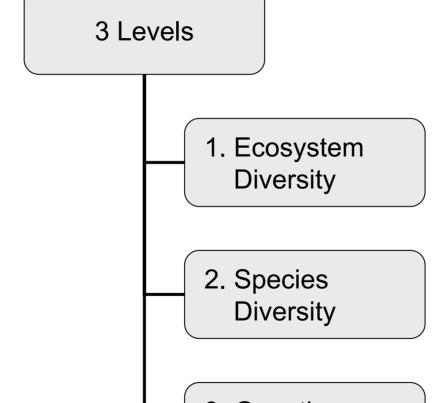
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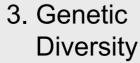


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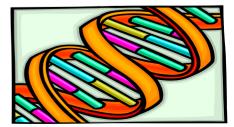
How is Biodiversity Organized?

















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The Value of Biological Diversity

Biodiversity has VALUE!

- Economic
- Social
- Esthetic
- Ethical



Provides us with essential goods and services

- For living
- For agriculture
- For health









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Ecosystems Services

- Air and water purification
- Waste detoxification & decomposition
- Climate stabilization (temperature, winds, waves)
- Flood & drought moderation
- Seed dispersal & plant pollination
- Soil fertility renewal
- Nutrient recycling
- Maintenance of genetic diversity









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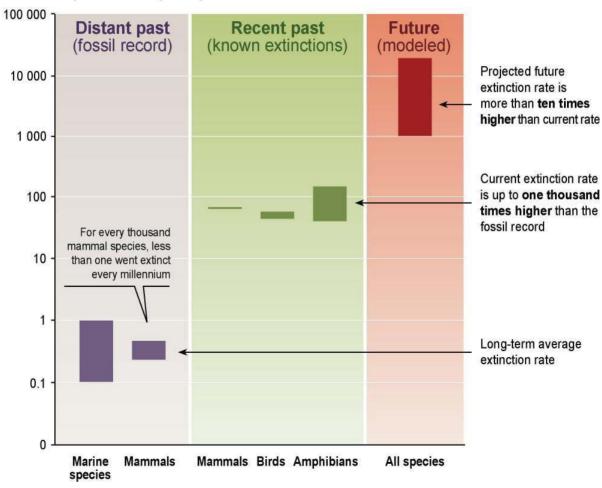


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Alarming Biodiversity Extinction Rate!

Extinctions per thousand species per millennium



Source: Millenium Ecosystem Assessment









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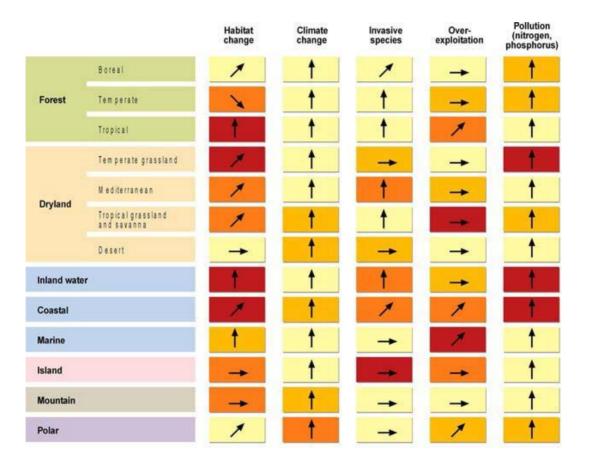
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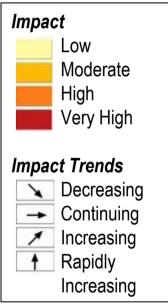


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Biodiversity Loss - Drivers & Impacts





Source: Millenium Ecosystem Assessment







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The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

History

Nov. 1988 UNEP Working Group

Feb. 1991 Intergovernmental Negociating Committee (INC)

May 1992 Adoption of CBD Text at Nairobi Conference

→ 22 May = International Day For Biodiversity (IDB)

June 1992 CBD open for signature at Rio "Earth Summit"

29 Dec. 1993 Entry into Force

→ www.cbd.int/history

Today

193 Parties: Only missing US, Andorra & Vatican

2009 Accessions: Iraq (26 Oct.) & Somalia (10 Dec.)

→ www.cbd.int/parties







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The 3 CBD Objectives

Conservation
 of biological diversity



2. Sustainable use of its components



3. Fair & equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources





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The 2010 Biodiversity Target

• The 2010 Biodiversity Target (from COP 6)

Endorsed by the 2002 WSSD (Rio+10) & the UN General Assembly

To achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth

Hierarchy

- 1 Overall Target
- 7 Focal Areas
- 11 Goals with Sub-Targets
- → www.cbd.int/2010-target







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What is the Clearing-House Mechanism?

- Information exchange platform of the CBD
- Created to promote scientific and technical cooperation (established in accordance with Art. 18.3)

The COP, at its first meeting, shall determine how to establish a clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation

- Implementation guided by COP Decisions
- Evolved into a global network consisting of:
 - National Clearing-House Mechanisms
 - Partner organizations
 - CBD website







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Decision VIII/11 - CHM Strategic Plan

Mission Statement

To contribute significantly to the implementation of the CBD and its programme areas and cross-cutting Issues, especially the 2010 target, through the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation, among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders.

3 Strategic Goals

- 1. Scientific & Technical Cooperation
- 2. Information Exchange
- 3. Networking







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Decision IX/30 - Latest COP Guidance

Background

- Objective: Enhance implementation despite limited resources
- COP 9 document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/23
- 2 key paragraphs (2 for Parties & 6 for the Executive Secretary)

For Parties (National CHM):

10 points to encourage Parties to establish strong and sustainable national CHMs

For the CBD Executive Secretary (Central CHM):

- Strengthen the CBD website & provide central on-line services (knowledge base, collaboration tools, on-line systems, ...)
- Collaborate with key partners and support national CHMs







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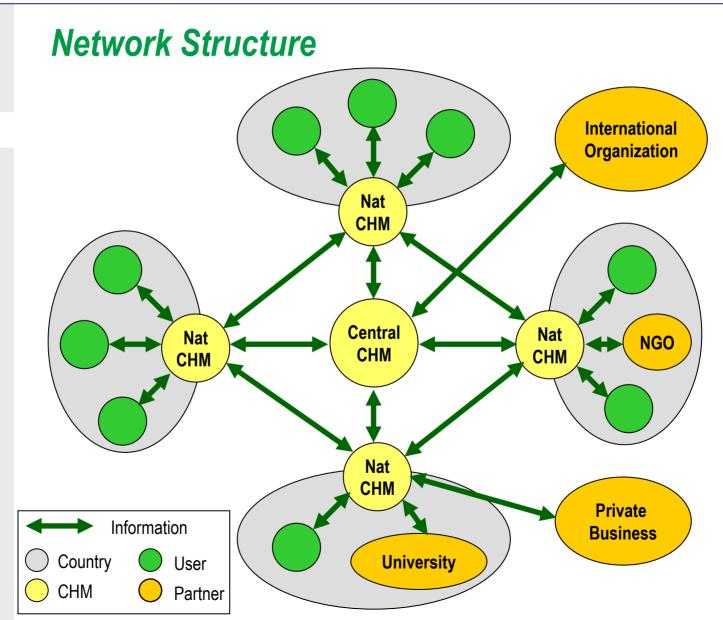
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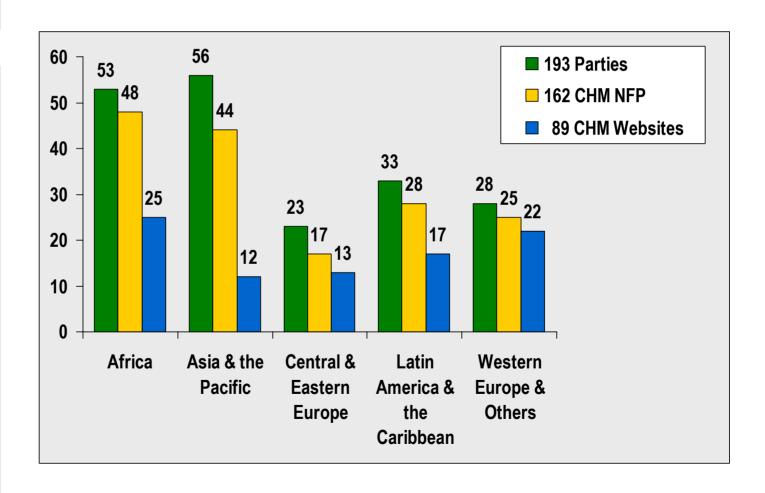
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Status of National CHM









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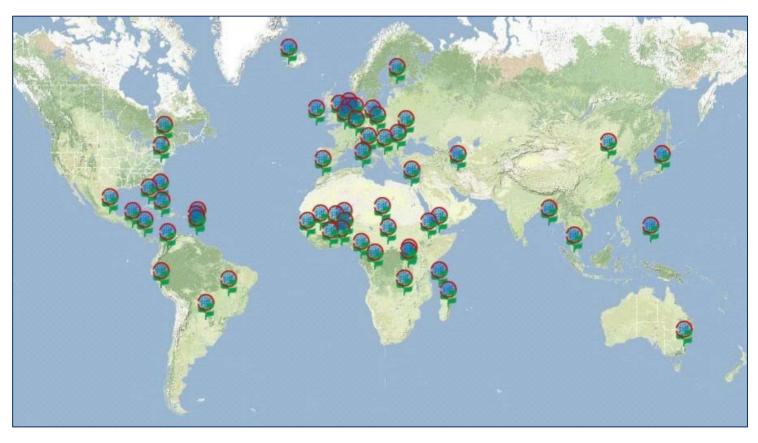
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Map of National CHM Websites



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Main CHM Cooperation Initiatives

European Community CHM

- Regional CHM supporting European countries
- European Portal Toolkit

Belgian CHM Partnership

- Capacity building programme for establishing national CHM
- Training on European Portal Toolkit
- Around 20 African countries assisted

ASEAN CHM

- Regional CHM at ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
- Capacity building to ASEAN countries







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European Regional CHM

→ http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu











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ASEAN Regional CHM

→ http://chm.aseanbiodiversity.org









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Australian National CHM

→ http://environment.gov.au











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Canadian National CHM

→ www.cbin.ec.gc.ca











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Colombian National CHM

→ http://co.chm-cbd.net











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Moroccan National CHM

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Other Partners & Initiatives

- UNEP & Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs)
 - Knowledge management for MEAs
 - Interoperability initiatives
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
 - Biodiversity data exchange
- Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN)
 - GISIN protocol
- ECOLEX
 - Gateway to environmental law
- •







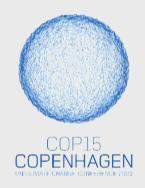
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Central CHM

CBD Website

- Information Services & Online Databases
- Country Profiles
- Thematic & Meeting Portals

Recent Key Initiatives

- LifeWeb website for protected areas
- Green Wave website for children
- Website for 2010, the Intenational Year of Biodiversity

Collaboration Tools

- Aichi Nagoya International E-Conference on the Post-2010 Target
- Other forums & blogs







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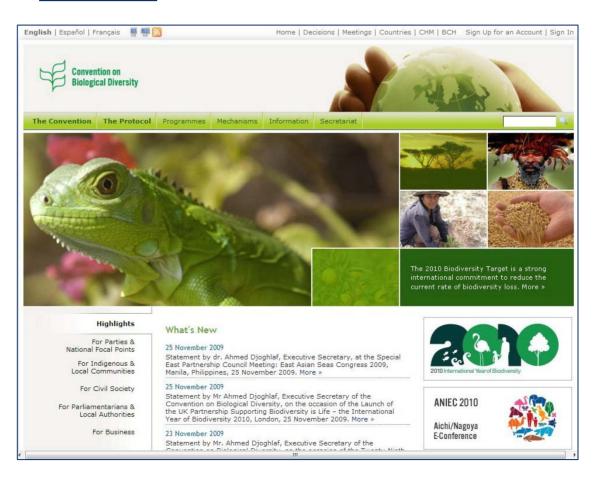
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CBD Website

Central node of the Clearing-House Mechanism

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CBD Website Information Services

Access to on-line CBD information and databases

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CBD Country Profiles

Official CBD Information by country

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The LifeWeb

An on-line mechanism to strengthen financing for protected areas

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The Green Wave

Raising awareness in schools by celebrating a tree planting initiative

→ http://greenwave.cbd.int









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2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Web portal to promote 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity









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Aichi-Nagoya International E-Conference

Public consultation on biodiversity through an on-line discussion forum

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Challenges

Resources

- Limited financial resources
- Lack of sustained appropriate expertise
- Least developed countries
- Website & information translation.

Management

- Content & knowledge management
- Quantity of information & initiatives
- High-level awareness & commitment
- Inter-institutional coordination & cooperation







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Opportunities

Experience

- Building upon existing network and services
- Lessons learned
- Increase in national & international capacity

Information & Communication Technology

- Content Management Systems (CMS) for easy website
- Open source software
- Web 2.0 technologies & on-line services

Environmental Awareness & Cooperation

- 2010 International Year of Biodiversity
- Further synergies & collaboration with MEAs & other institutions







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Next Steps

CBD website

- Improve layout & content
- Improve online services
- Translate the website

Knowledge & Information Management

- Gradually build a knowledge base
- Benefit from UNEP KM initiative for MEAs

National CHM Website

- Improve guidance & support
- Provide modern information exchange mechanisms







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Thank you!

Further Information

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Questions or comments?



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