



Socio-Economic Considerations

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety establishes the right of Parties to take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms (LMOs) on biodiversity, especially with regard to the value of biodiversity to indigenous and local communities, in reaching a decision on whether to import LMOs. The inclusion of socio-economic considerations in Parties' decision-making on the import of LMOs must be consistent with their other international obligations such as commitments under other international treaties. The Protocol also encourages Parties to cooperate on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of LMOs, especially on indigenous and local communities.

The issue of socio-economic considerations under the Protocol was first considered by the Parties at their second meeting. The meeting requested Governments and relevant international organizations to provide their views and case studies concerning socio-economic impacts of LMOs. These views and case studies were considered by the Parties at their fourth meeting.

In 2008, the Division of GEF Coordination of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity conducted an online survey on the application of and experience in the use of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs. The report of the survey was considered by the Parties at their fifth meeting.

The Secretariat has created a portal in the Biosafety Clearing-House for the purpose of facilitating activities on socio-economic considerations. Discussion groups and regional online real-time conferences are being conducted through the portal.





Fast Facts

- According to the first national reports, some countries, such as Colombia, Indonesia and South Africa, have taken socio-economic considerations into account in their decision-making regarding LMOs.
- The online survey identified food security, impacts on market access, health-related impacts, macroeconomic impacts and impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as important socio-economic issues and priorities for capacity-building.

Learn More

Socio-Economic Considerations under the Protocol:

http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26.shtml

Portal on Socio-Economic Considerations: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml

Survey on Socio-Economic Considerations: <http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/socioeconomics.shtml>

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

Frequently asked questions: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_faq.shtml

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
UNBiodiversity@cbd.int

http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26.shtml

