INTRODUCTION
THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY'S ARTICLE 23
AND
TARGET 17 OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Joint Aarhus Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity Side Event Promoting transparency and participatory approaches to biosafety-related decision-making

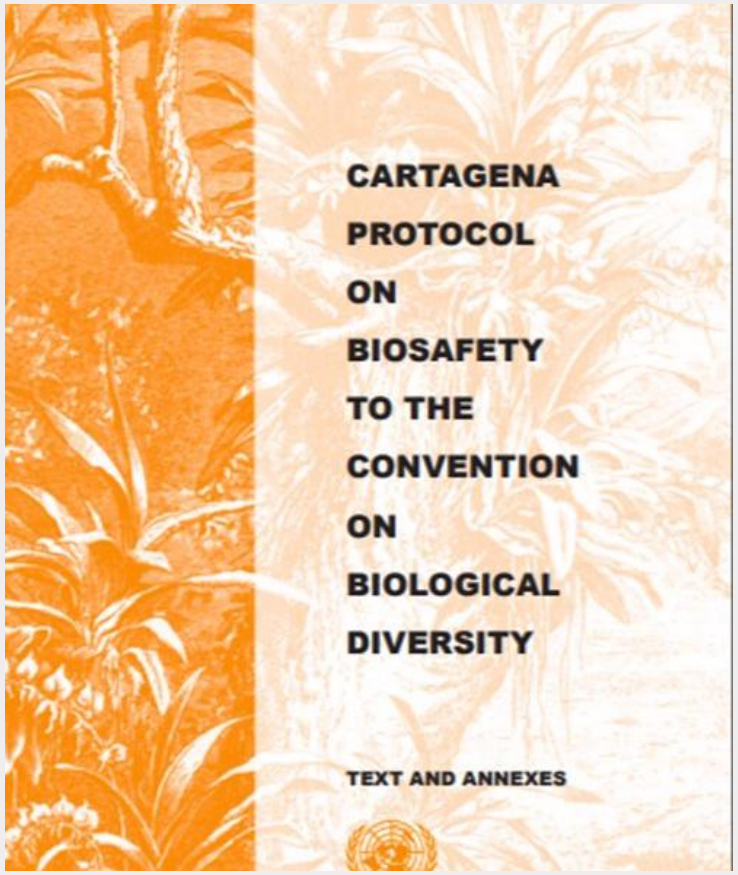
18 November 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

Kunming - Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

UN environment programme

Convention on Biological Diversity

Introduction

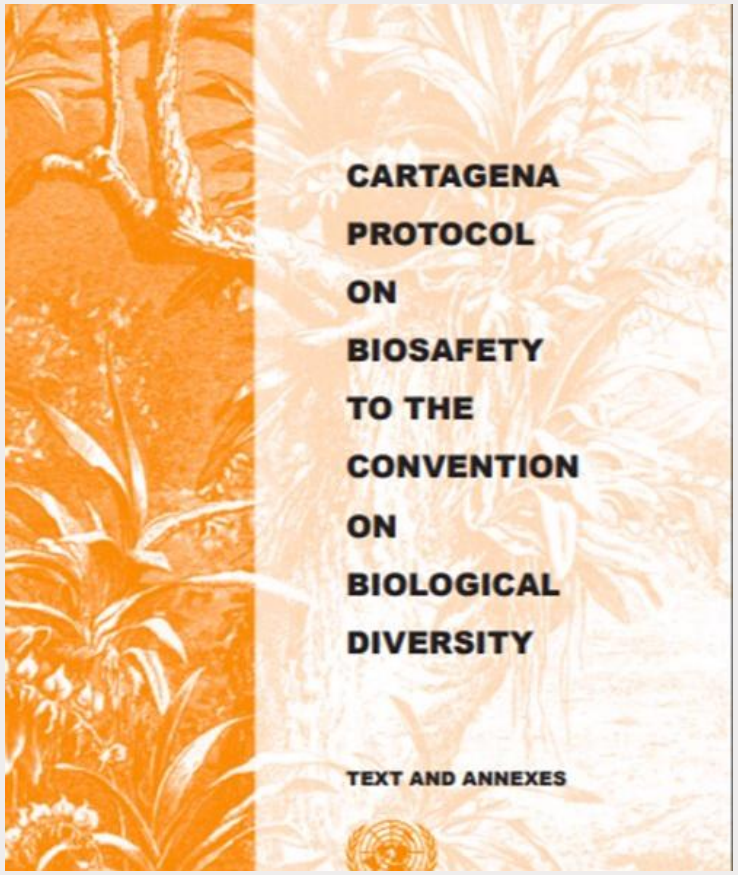


Article 23 on Public Awareness, Education and Participation, including Access to Information, regarding Living Modified Organisms

Article 23 requires Parties to:

- Promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs, taking also into account risks to human health; and in doing so to cooperate, as appropriate, with other States and international bodies
- Endeavour to ensure that public awareness and education encompass access to information on LMOs identified in accordance with this Protocol that may be imported
- Consult the public in the decision-making process regarding LMOs and avail the results of such decisions to the public
- Endeavour to inform the public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

(Article 20 of the Protocol establishes a BCH to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, LMOs)



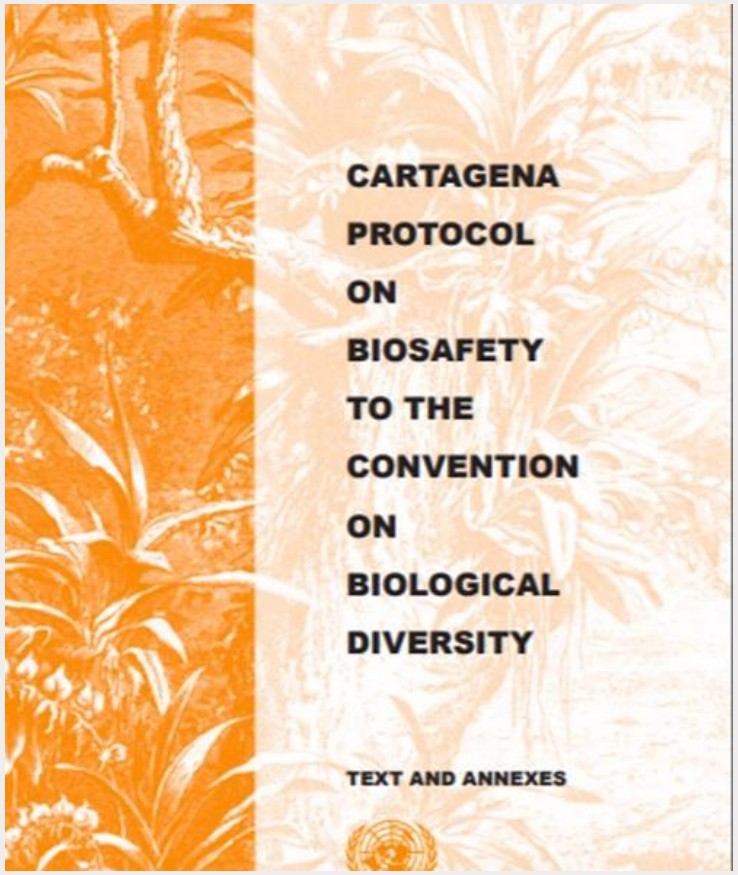
Implementation Plan for the Protocol

-Implementation Plan adopted at MOP-10
-By 2030
-"…broad desirable achievements and accomplishments to help guide Parties in their implementation of the Protocol and measure progress"
-Complementary to the KMGBF

Goal on Article 23:
B.3. Parties promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation on the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs, in accordance with Article 23 of the Protocol

The 5th national reports are due in 28 February 2026.

The reports: facilitate the midterm evaluation of the Plan and for MOP 12, 19–30 October 2026, Yerevan, Armenia



Capacity-building Action Plan to the Protocol

-Capacity-building Action Plan adopted at MOP-10

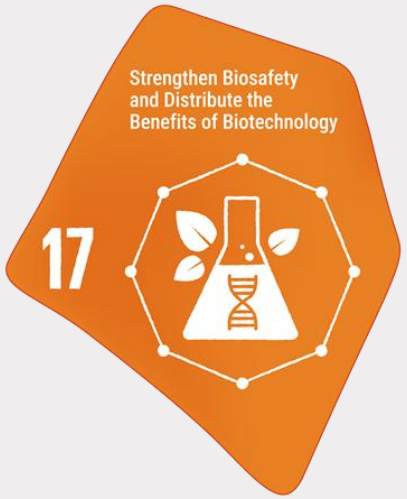
-By 2030

-"…facilitate the development and strengthening of the capacities of Parties to implement the Protocol"

-Alignment with the Implementation Plan

Goal on Article 23:

B.3. Parties promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation on the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs, in accordance with Article 23 of the Protocol





Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

-KMGBF adopted at COP 15
-To 2030
-“Living in Harmony with Nature”

Target 17: Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology

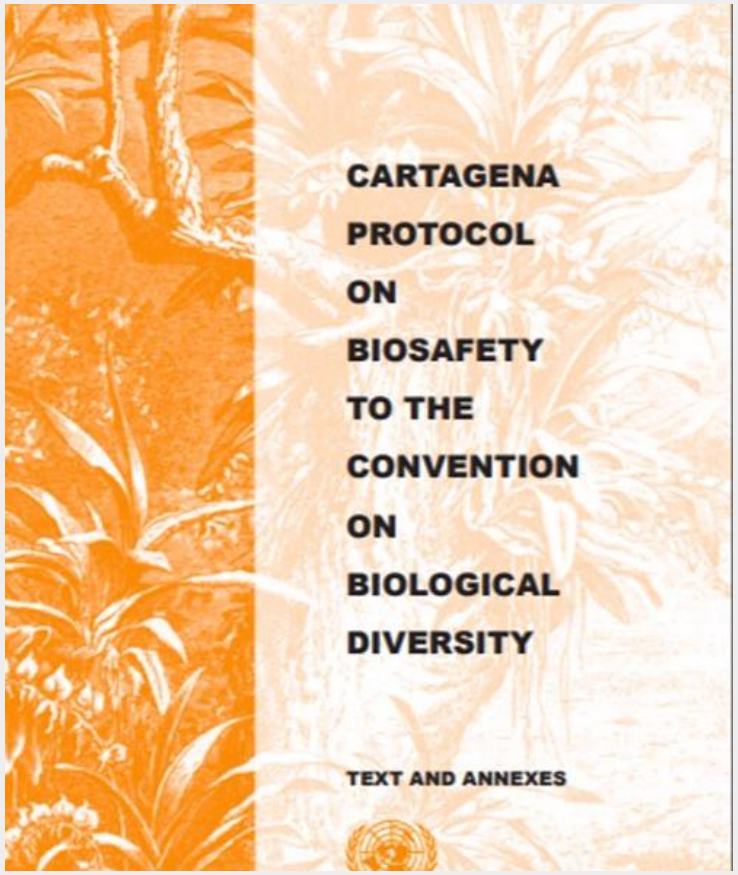
Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.



Target 22 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

Target 22 Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all





Joint materials: Pocket guide

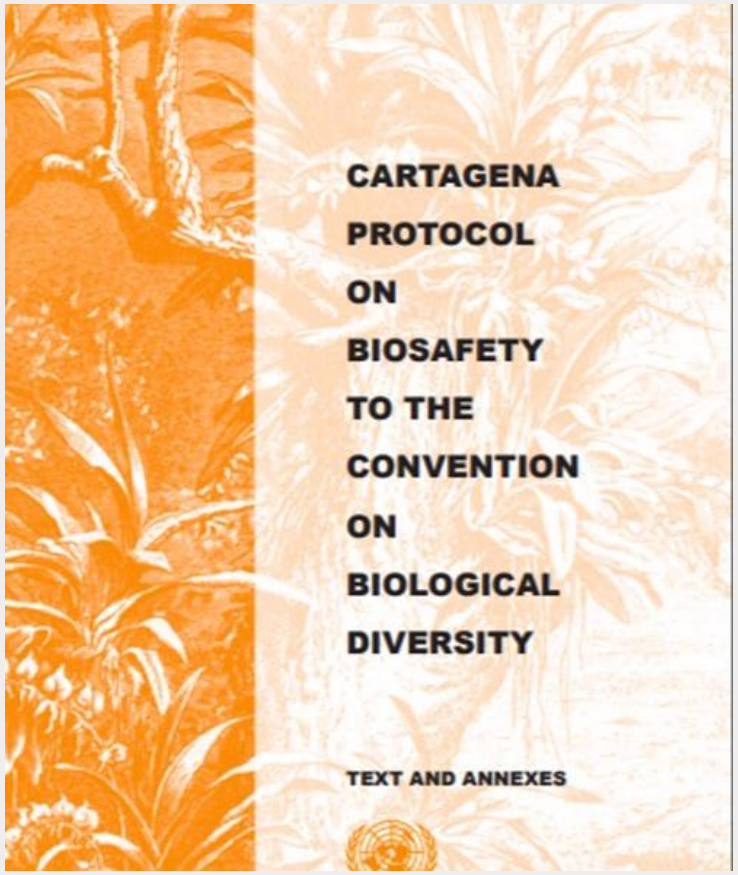
Joint CBD/Aarhus Convention pocket guide on access to information and public participation regarding LMOs (Pocket guide)

Launched October 2024

In all UN languages available. Pick up in the front at the end of the meeting!

The pocket guide has been developed as a resource for Governments and other stakeholders to strengthen their capacities in ensuring effective access to information and fostering meaningful public participation in decision-making related to living modified organisms and genetically modified organisms

Introduction



Stronger cooperation can be built through

- Enhanced cooperation between Aarhus Convention and Biosafety Protocol focal points
- Integrated information systems – exploring links with the BCH
- Joint capacity-building and guidance to support member states
- Stakeholder networking
- Secretariat-level coordination

Activities will contribute to a more coherent global framework that enhances transparency, strengthens biosafety governance, and ensures meaningful public participation in GMO/LMO decision-making.

Thank You!



Kunming - Montreal

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

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Convention on
Biological Diversity