

Memorandum of Cooperation
between
CAB International (CABI)
and
the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity [hereafter referred to as the CBD], negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1993. Its aims are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of biological resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The CBD has been ratified by 186 countries and one regional economic integration organization.

CAB International:

CAB International [hereafter referred to as CABI] is an international, intergovernmental not-for-profit organization specialising in sustainable development within the agricultural and environmental sectors, with particular emphasis on assistance to less-developed and in-transition nations. CABI is owned and guided by the governments of its 41 Member Countries through a UN treaty level agreement. CABI has its headquarters in Wallingford, UK, and operates from Centres around the world i.e. Kenya [Africa Regional Centre], Malaysia [South-East Asia Regional Centre], Pakistan, India, China, Trinidad and Tobago [Caribbean and Latin America Regional Centre], Switzerland and the USA. It incorporates two operating Divisions, *CABI Publishing* and *CABI Bioscience*.

Recalling:

- The role of information exchange in the implementation of the CBD as noted in Article 17;
- Decision I/3 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) establishing a Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation as specified in Article 18, paragraph 3, of the CBD;
- Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD which provides for the establishment of a Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) to facilitate information exchange and assist Parties to implement the Protocol;
- The recommendations of the three meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP) specifying that the development of the pilot phase of the BCH should seek to involve partnerships with international organizations and sources of scientific information, linkages with relevant databases, and interoperability with information exchange systems.

Noting:

- The particular aim of CABI's *Mission* to assist developing countries through the promotion of sustainable management practices of biological resources;
- The important role of CABI as a source of scientific and technical information in subject areas of relevance to the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol, with its databases, training manuals, books, compendiums and Internet sites;
- The important role of CABI in information acquisition and management, knowledge discovery and capacity building in subject areas of relevance to the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol;
- The important role of CABI in conservation and utilisation of microbial diversity and as custodian to one of the largest microbial genetic resources globally.

Article 1 – Objective

The purpose of the Memorandum is to establish a framework for cooperation between CABI and the CBD Secretariat to facilitate the availing of CABI resources and services of relevance to the work of the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol.

Article 2 – Responsibilities of CABI

CABI shall:

- (1) Endeavour to make relevant CABI resources and services available to the Parties to the CBD and the Protocol, taking into account where relevant the proprietary and commercial nature of particular resources and services.
- (2) Endeavour to conform to guidelines or standards for resource and service provision as set out by the CBD Secretariat.
- (3) Make its best efforts to maintain and make available any linked or interoperable CABI information resource 24 hours a day 7 days a week;
- (4) Endeavour to develop knowledge and expertise in resource and service sharing as part of CABI's collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, to the mutual advantage of both Parties.

Article 3 – Responsibilities of the CBD Secretariat

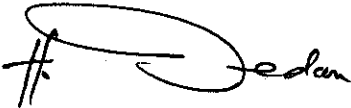
The CBD Secretariat shall:

- (1) Endeavour to make available CABI resources and services in areas of relevance to the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol.
- (2) As appropriate, implement any measures where necessary and relevant to account for the proprietary and commercial nature of CABI resources and services.

Article 4 – Review, Amendment and Termination

- (1) This Memorandum of Cooperation may be reviewed to assess its effectiveness and may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties;
- (2) This Memorandum of Cooperation may be terminated by either party giving notice in writing to the other not less than six months in advance of the effective date of termination.

Done at Montreal on 14 October 2003



Dr Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity



Dr Denis Blight
Director General
CAB International