



Convention on
Biological Diversity

The Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms

Austein McLoughlin
Associate Programme Management Officer
16 March 2023

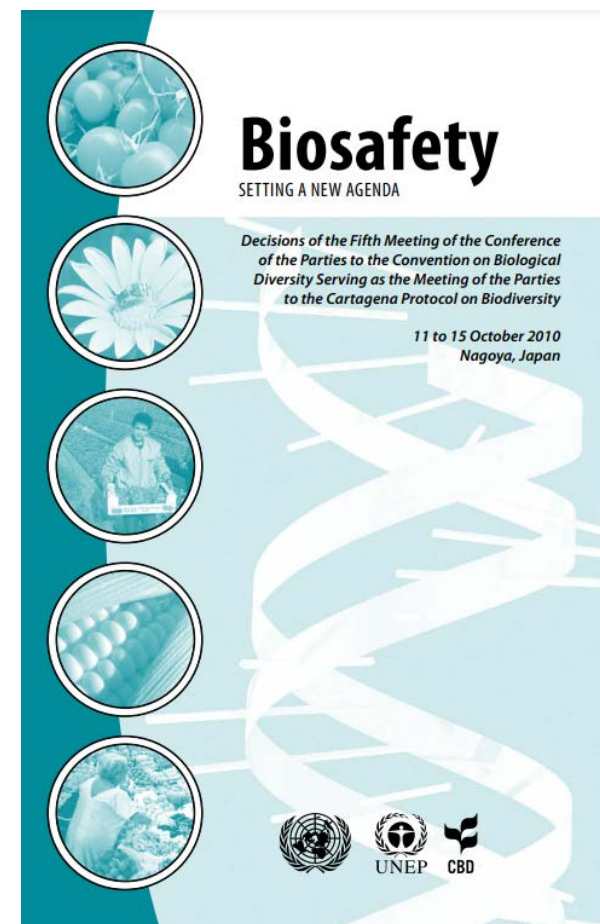


UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



What is the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms?

- Established in response to decision BS-V/9
- “An electronic network of laboratories to facilitate the identification of living modified organisms as well as the sharing of information and experiences”
- Hosted on the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)
- Functions as an information exchange platform for experts within the field



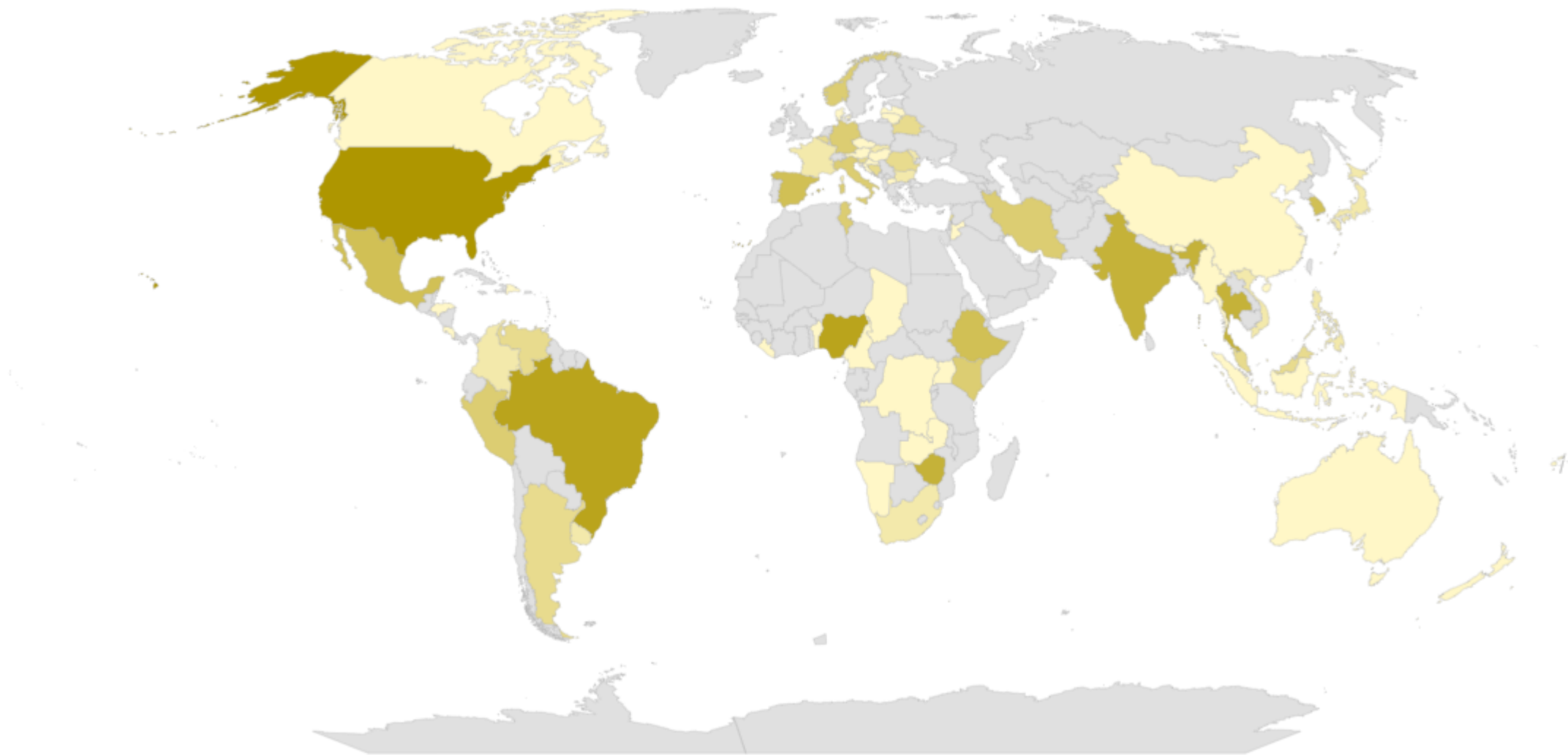
The Network has global membership

- 164 experts:
 - 36 from Africa
 - 39 from Asia
 - 24 from Central and Eastern Europe
 - 30 from Latin America and the Caribbean
 - 35 from Western Europe and North America



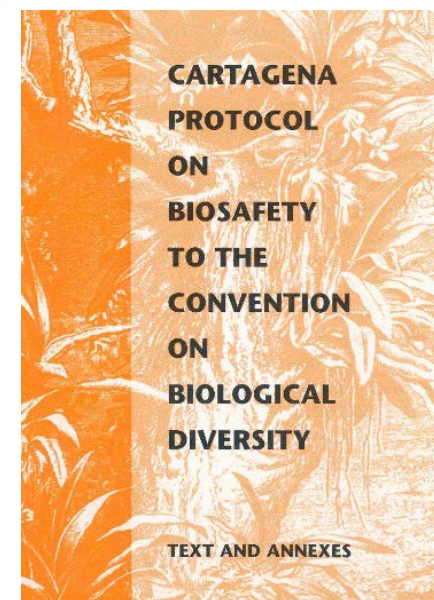
Convention on
Biological Diversity

Count 1 8



What is the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms?

- Meets at least once per intersessional period for online discussions
- Previous face-to-face workshops have been held in 2013 and 2015
- Supports the programme of work on detection and identification of LMOs



How has the Network of Labs contributed to the field of detection and identification of LMOs?

- Informed and suggested elements for decisions taken by COP-MOP
 - Technical views on emerging techniques, capacity-building needs, performance criteria, etc.
 - Helped define illegal vs unintentional transboundary movements
- Developed capacity-building materials



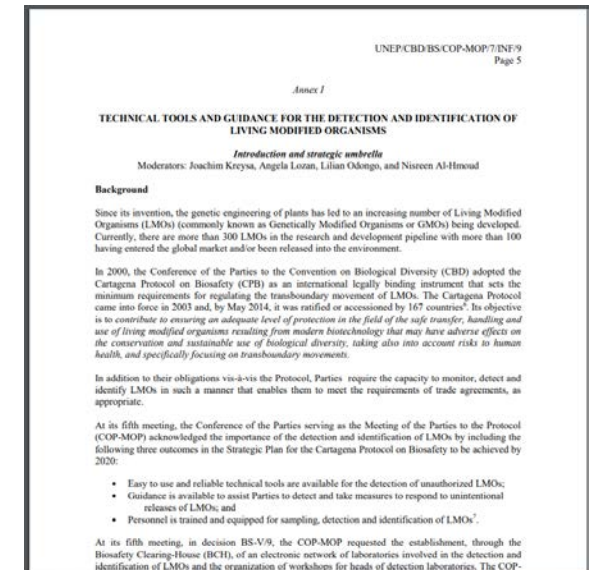
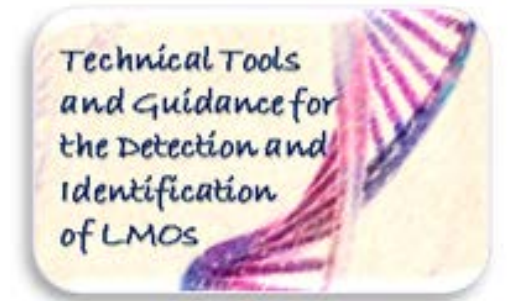
Photo: ThisisEngineering RAEng



Photo: Chris Curry

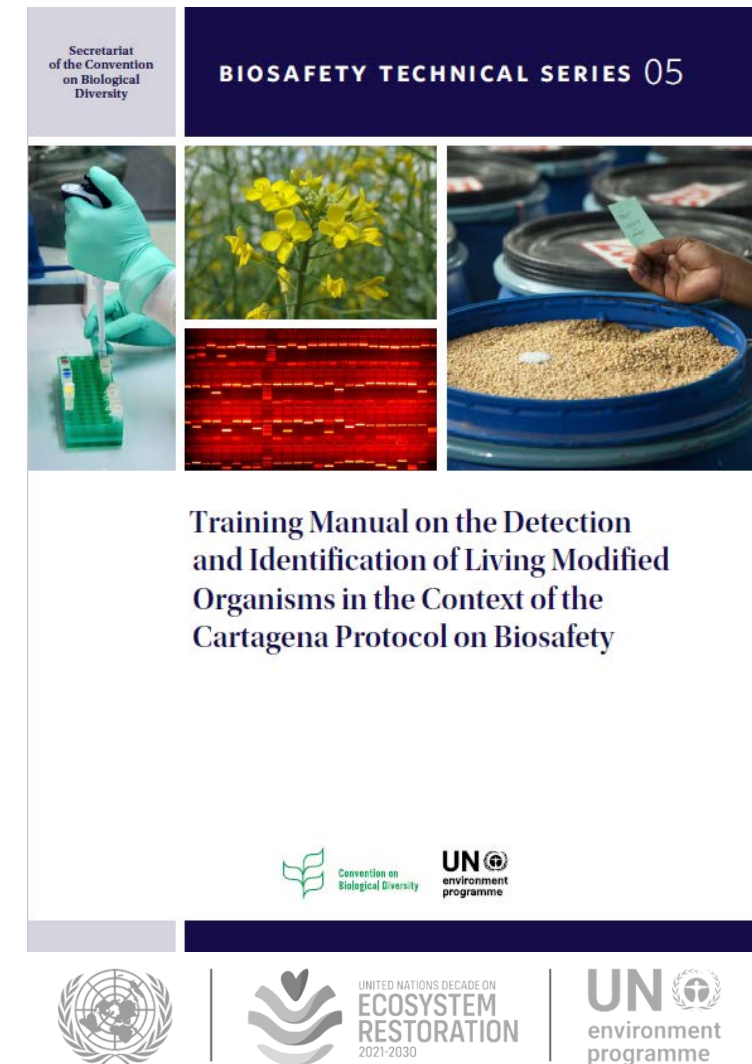
Capacity-building materials

- Technical Tools and Guidance for the Detection and Identification of LMOs
- Developed following 2013 workshop
- Input from global experts
- Available in online and offline formats on BCH at:
https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_detection/toolsandguidance.shtml



Capacity-building materials

- Developed in collaboration with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre
- In response to:
 - Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020
 - Action plan for capacity-building activities following workshop
- Published as Biosafety Technical Series 05
- Available on BCH as Biosafety Virtual Library Resource record (#260177).
- Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish



What is planned for the Network of Laboratories?

- Decision CP-10/11:
 - Requested the Executive Secretary to continue the work mandated under the previous decision
 - Call for submissions on whether there is a need to update the training manual
- Online discussions will take place in later this year (tentative) to support requests under decision CP-10/11
- Continued enlargement on an on-going basis

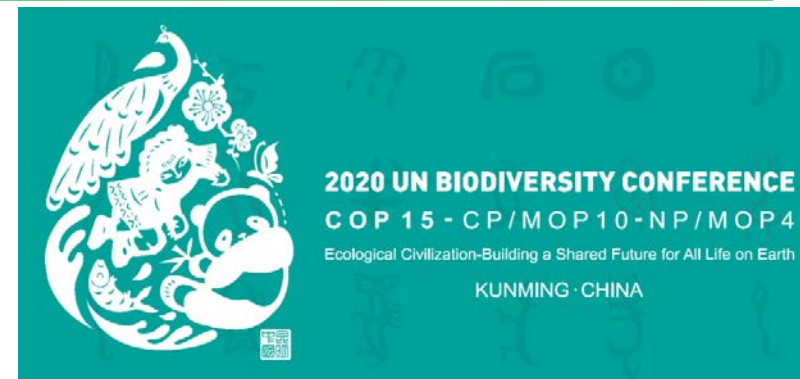


Photo: Earth Negotiations Bulletin



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030



How else could the Network of Laboratories be deployed to support the Convention and the Protocol?

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
 - Target 17
 - Biosafety measures (Article 8g) + handling of biotechnology and distribution of benefits (Article 19)
- Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol
 - Goal A.8
 - Ability to detect and identify LMOs
- Capacity-Building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol
 - Goal A.8



Photo: Earth Negotiations Bulletin



Photo: National Cancer Institute



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030



How to engage with the Network of Laboratories

- Join the Network!
 - Send a nomination
 - signed letter either:
 - National focal point to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; or
 - Head of organization
 - CV with description of involvement in detection and identification activities
- Visit:
<https://bch.cbd.int/protocol>



Photo: National Cancer Institute

Thank you

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413 St. Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9
Tel. +1 514 288 2220

secretariat@cbd.int

cbd.int

bch.cbd.int

bch.cbd.int/protocol



facebook.com/UNBiodiversity

facebook.com/UN.Biosafety



twitter.com/UNBiodiversity

twitter.com/BCHCPB



instagram.com/UNBiodiversity



linkedin.com/company/UNBiodiversity