

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety



The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is an international treaty that sets rules for the safe use of living organisms modified through modern biotechnology. The Protocol establishes procedures for making decisions for the import and export of these organisms.

It was adopted as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity and entered into force on 11 September 2003.

Parties to the Protocol are required to, among other things:

- » Ensure that risk assessments are carried out for living modified organisms (LMOs) to be imported for introduction into the environment
- » Ensure that LMOs are accompanied by appropriate identification documentation and are safely handled, packaged and transported
- » Take measures to prevent and penalize illegal movements of LMOs
- » Exchange information and experiences through the Biosafety Clearing-House
- » Cooperate on capacity-building and promote public awareness and participation in biosafety.

