

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

Sustainable use of biodiversity is one of the three objectives of the CBD. Lessons derived from experiences of sustainable usage can be applied to all economic activities, including agriculture and livestock management, forestry, fisheries, biofuel production or bioprospecting. Under the general guidelines of sustainable use, healthy ecosystems can be maintained to provide economic and other benefits to people, and only then does their long-term survival of human can be secured. Sustainable use is also an effective tool to combat poverty, and, consequently, to achieve sustainable development.

Living modified organism (LMO), or genetically modified organism (GMO), means any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology. LMOs have been used in biological and medical research, production of pharmaceutical drugs, experimental medicine, agriculture and have generated great economic benefit. Although modern biotechnology has great potential for human well-being, many people are concerned about the negative impact of LMOs to biodiversity and human health.

The Conference of the Parties to the CBD, therefore, adopted the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 29 January 2000. The Protocol, entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by LMOs resulting from modern biotechnology. Parties are to establish and maintain appropriate mechanisms, measures and strategies to regulate, manage and control risks associated with the use, handling and transboundary movement of LMOs. According to the Protocol, Parties shall also cooperate in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety.

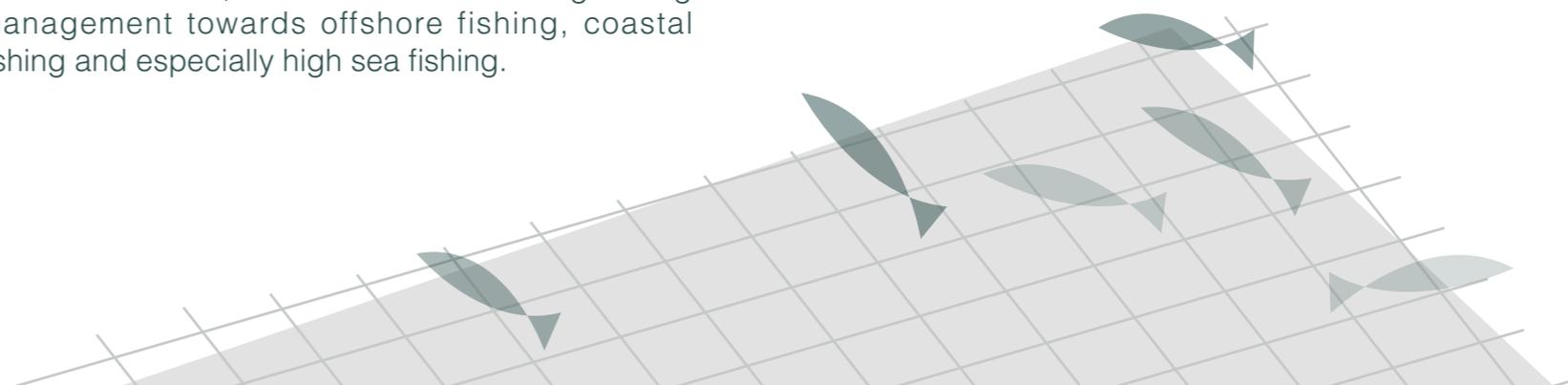
► Sustainable Fisheries

Though a small country, Taiwan is one of the six top nations in open sea fishing. Taiwanese fishing vessels can be seen in any big oceans. Taiwan ranks the biggest superfrozen tuna producer, the second biggest tuna producer and the third biggest squid producer in the world. The Taiwanese fishing industry harvests fish worth US\$2.7 billion, exports 600,000 tons of fish which worth US\$1.2 billion each year. While benefit from these marine resources, we must ensure the conservation and sustainable

use of marine biodiversity. For example, the legislature passed third reading of the Statute for Management of Investing and Running Non-ROC Registered Fishing Vessels in 2008. The legislation ensures that ROC citizens who invest and run non-ROC registered fishing vessels are properly managed through transparency. According to articles in the statute, ROC citizens involved in “fish laundering” activities face six months to three years’ imprisonment, or NT\$30 million fine. The legislative rules cover operation permits, the waters they are working, work periods, issuing vessel location report, as well as their fishing tackles, fishing methods and catch quota.

The Fishery Statistical Database established and Fisheries Yearbook published by the Fisheries Agency help management agency understands the dynamic change of fishery resources. In order to use fishery resources sustainably, the Fisheries Agency cut 160 fishing vessels, controlled the number of newly built as well the total amount of fish vessels, initiated programs to purchase fishing vessels and encourage closed fishing seasons and closure subsidies, in addition to reinforcing fishing management towards offshore fishing, coastal fishing and especially high sea fishing.

The Fisheries Agency prohibits catching sharks for fins, shark fins and their body ratio must never exceed the 5% limit. Fishing vessels are required to attend to facilities and gears to safeguard sea bird and sea turtle from by-catch. As a part of national monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) program, all Taiwanese commercial fishing vessels on tuna, swordfish and shark are required to install vessel monitor system (VMS) and report their position and time at a position to the regulatory agency. Vessels failed to do so will be asked to stop operation and to prove their catch load and fish sold are not tuna, swordfish or shark.



► Biosafety

Laws and regulations of ROC relevant to LMOs include “Plant Variety and Seed Act” (former “Plant Seed Act”) amended and promulgated in 2004, “The Enforcement Rules for the Plant Variety and Plant Seed Act” promulgated in 2005, “The Administrative Regulations for the Field Testing of the Transgenic Plants” promulgated in 2005, “The Regulations for Packaging and Labeling of the Transgenic Plants” promulgated in 2005, “Guidance of Safety Assessment for Genetically Modified Foods Table of Contents” promulgated in 2004, “Labeling Requirements for Food Containing Ingredient of Genetically Modified Soybean or Genetically Modified Corn” promulgated in 2001, “Registration Requirement for Genetically Modified Soybean and Genetically Modified Corn” promulgated in 2001, “Laboratory Guidelines for Gene Recombination” published by the National Science Council in 1999, and “Standard Operating Procedures Manual for

Biological Safety Level III Laboratory (1st Edition)” published by the Center for Disease Control of the Department of Health in 2004. The Council of Labor Affairs recently drafted national standard on “Biological Safety Level (BSL)” and “Class II Biohazard Cabinetry. Regulatory agencies of LMOs in ROC include Council of Agriculture, Environment Protection Administration, Department of Health, and Council of Labor Affairs.



Biohazard sign



<http://www.taiwanbiosafety.org>

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The Achievement of Taiwan's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) III

Properly Utilize The Biodiversity



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