



## “National ABS Workshop for Kenya”

A workshop hosted by  
the **National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)**,

**icipe - African Insect Science for Food and Health**  
and

in partnership with  
the **Research Centre for European Environmental Law (FEU)**



**12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Nairobi, Kenya**

## Workshop Outline

In December 2006 the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources gazetted the Environmental Management and Coordination (Conservation of Biological Diversity and Resources, Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing) Regulations. These regulations among others set out a requirement of permit for access to genetic resources, as well as a duty of permit holders to share benefits. These regulations were timely in the sense that they came into force about the time when numerous cases of biopiracy had been reported in Kenya. Further, they also have also formed a basis for negotiation position taken by Kenya in the on-going negotiations for an international legally binding legal regime on Access and Benefit Sharing under the auspices of the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

It is now two years since these regulations came into force. These regulations have contributed immensely towards defining roles and responsibilities of the various national actors involved in the ABS processes. However, as it is the case with similar regulations in other countries, it is necessary, as a 'learning process' to take stock of the theory and practice of their implementation, identify challenges if any, and propose solutions to these.

It should also be borne in mind that there are on-going national processes whose outcomes have a bearing on the implementation of the Kenya ABS regulations. These processes include the work of the Taskforce on the development of laws for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Folklore; the drafting of a National Policy on Traditional Medicines and Medicinal Plants under the Ministry of Planning and the National Council for Population and Development; and the improvement of the Traditional Health Practitioners Bill, 2002. At the institutional level some state agencies are in the process of formulating their own bioprospecting policies and these regulations anchor such policies.

## Workshop Objectives

A workshop shall be held in Nairobi from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009 with a view to share experiences in implementing national ABS regulations, to identify implementation challenges in Kenya and to suggest solutions to these. With assistance from FEU, University of Bremen the workshop will be hosted by NEMA, icipe and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa, which is being implemented by GTZ.

**Expected outcomes**

The expected outcome of the workshop will be to propose solutions to any challenges that will be identified in implementing the ABS regulations in Kenya

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