



Training for Facilitators of ABS Multi-stakeholder Workshops and Meetings

April and May 2010
Gustav Stresemann Institute Bonn, Germany

Outline

Background

The negotiations for an international regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources (ABS) are gradually moving towards conclusion: October 2010 marks the deadline for reaching international agreement, at the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP 10) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan. Until that time, the focus of many actors who are involved with ABS is on the successful conclusion of those negotiations, as a workable international regime (IR) is considered an important precondition for effective national implementation of ABS.

What is already clear, however, is that ABS is and will always involve a broad variety of actors – not only at the international, but even more so at the national level. Regardless of what the IR will ultimately look like, national implementation of ABS will therefore require more than just adopting a set of rules and regulations. It will call for involvement and participation of many different actors: from a variety of government agencies, to scientists, to diverse businesses, to indigenous people and local communities, and many others.

Organising large meetings of very diverse actors and facilitating their productive interaction is an art in itself that requires specialised skills. General facilitation skills are an important basis to start from; however working with large and/or heterogeneous groups often requires a somewhat different approach and special methods that go beyond what is typically used to facilitate meetings of smaller or more homogeneous groups.

This training is part of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa. 50% of the participants will be financially supported by the UNEP/GEF ABS Capacity Building Project for Africa. Background information about the Initiative and full documentation of previous events is provided on www.abs-africa.info.

Objectives of the Training

This training is to address the foreseeable need, in the context of national ABS implementation, for facilitators who are skilled to support large-group and/or multi-stakeholder meetings and workshops.

At the end of the training, the participants will

- have refreshed their existing facilitation skills and understood the special characteristics of large-group and multi-stakeholder events;
- have gained knowledge and some practical experience with large-group and multi-stakeholder facilitation methods;
- be able to (co-)facilitate ABS related national or regional large-group and multi-stakeholder events.

Participants are likely to require additional practice in large group and/or multi-stakeholder facilitation before they will feel sufficiently confident to lead such events. Every occasion will therefore be sought after the training to involve participants in (co-) facilitating ABS-related multi-stakeholder events in their country or region.

Methodological approach

This is an advanced training that builds on the participants' existing facilitation skills and experience. As far as possible, dynamic and interactive methods will be used to support the participants' learning process. Active participation of all attendees is therefore required throughout the training.

Programme elements

Revision of basic facilitation approaches and methods

- Gathering the existing knowledge and experience of the participants

What's different with large and/or heterogeneous groups?

- Understanding the specific challenges of working with multi-stakeholder groups

Defining the overall setting of a multi-stakeholder event

- Understanding the context and nature of the event
- Identifying the client(s) and key stakeholder groups
- Clarifying objectives, goals and envisaged outcomes

Special methods for multi-stakeholder events

- Getting to know some specialised methods for large and/or heterogeneous groups

Designing a suitable 'flow' for the event

- Producing a comprehensive programme and 'script'
- What if things don't work out as planned: Dealing with 'unforseeables'

Next steps

- Developing personal action plans for further learning and gaining experience

Participants

The training is to be held twice: One for English speaking participants (mostly from Eastern and Southern Africa) and one for French speaking participants (mostly from Northern, Western and Central Africa).

Up to 12 participants from each of the two language regions will be invited to attend. At least 2 participants should come from each of the six countries (Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa), that will be supported by the UNEP/GEF ABS Capacity Building Project for Africa that is to begin in 2010. In order to ensure the advanced nature of the training, a prerequisite for participation is a certain degree of previously gained facilitation skills and experience. Another prerequisite is that participants have time and agree to be available as (co-)facilitators of ABS related multi-stakeholder events in their country or region.

Participants will be personally invited to this training. Replacements in cases where invitees are unable to attend are only possible in consultation with and agreement of the organisers.

Dates and Venue

The training will take one full week (5 working days) in Bonn, Germany. The English version is planned for 12th to 16th April 2010; the French version will take place from 3rd to 7th May 2010.

Contact

Dr. Andreas Drews

Manager of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa
Division 47 Environment and Climate Change

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
Postfach 5180, 65726 Eschborn, Germany

T +49 (6196) 79-1363

F +49 (6196) 79-801363

E andreas.drews@gtz.de

I www.gtz.de/biodiv and www.abs-africa.info