

Second African ILC Preparatory Meeting on ABS and TK

30 August – 01 September 2010, Cape Town, South Africa

Organized by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa in partnership with the Indigenous Information Network (IIN) and the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)

Venue: tbd.

Background

The debate around the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (ILCs) to their traditional knowledge (TK) and biological resources within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has gained significant momentum over the last few years. While Article 15 of the Convention reiterates the sovereignty of States over their genetic resources, Article 8(j) asks parties to protect all traditional knowledge of ILCs relevant to conservation and sustainable use, and to promote its wider application with the approval and involvement of traditional knowledge holders. Two parallel but interlinked processes could achieve significant breakthroughs on these issues at the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP 10) of the CBD in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010: the negotiations on Access to genetic resources and related Benefit-Sharing (ABS) and the negotiations on the implementation of Article 8j.

Parties at COP 10 are expected to adopt a legally binding International Regime on ABS, and one of the still-contentious issues is how to include traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources into the provisions of this International Regime. COP 10 will also discuss the adoption of a revised multi-year programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j), and of the “Tkarihwaié:ri Code of Ethical Conduct on Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity” which came out of the last meeting of the Working Group on 8j in November 2009 in Montreal.

The meeting in Cape Town will be the second preparatory meeting for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on ABS and TK and is part of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa. Detailed information about the Initiative and full documentation of previous workshops and events is provided on the Initiative’s website www.abs-africa.info. The ABS Initiative has so far convened several pan-African workshops, as well as a number of trainings and workshops with a regional or issue-based focus.

Objectives of the workshop

Against this background, the objectives of the meeting are to:

- Brief participants on (1) process and status of the negotiation of the International Regime on ABS with a special focus on the inclusion of traditional knowledge, (2) process and status of the TK-related negotiation under WIPO, and (3) on the outcomes of the last meeting of the Working Group on Article 8j;
- Discuss the relevant draft decisions for the 10th Conference of the Parties of the CBD
- Develop an African ILC perspective on these draft decisions

In order to “ground” the discussions and recommendations, an exchange of first-hand experiences with bioprospecting and/or biopiracy will take place early during the workshop. Participants who do have relevant practical experiences are encouraged to indicate this in their registration form, so that the workshop organisers can get in touch with them individually to discuss how to most appropriately present these first-hand experiences. These experiences will function as a sounding board for the

further discussion of recommendations and the development of African ILC perspectives on the relevant issues.

Expected Outputs

- Input from the African ILC perspective to the discussions of the indigenous people's caucus before and during COP 10
- Recommendations for the negotiators of the African Group in their negotiation on the International Regime on ABS and Article 8j

Participants

Up to 45 participants representing African indigenous peoples and local communities. Participants should have taken part in relevant meetings in the past and/or have a general understanding of issues related to ABS and TK.

Simultaneous interpretation English/French/English will be available for the plenary sessions of the workshop.