

African Minister Conference on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Preceded by the Regional Consultations for African Countries on ABS

8-10 March 2010

Safari Court Hotel

Windhoek, Namibia

hosted by



**Namibian Ministry of
Environment and Tourism**

in partnership with **AMCEN**

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Annotated Agenda

Monday, 08.03.2010	
08.00	Registration
09.00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Namibian National Anthem and African Union Anthem Entertainment by cultural group Welcome by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, <i>Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism</i> <p>Statements by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Karen Ellemann, <i>Danish Minister for the Environment</i> Hon. Rejoice Mabudafasi, <i>South African Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs and AMCEN Chair</i> Dr. Bakary Kante <i>on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP</i> Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, <i>Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i> <p>Keynote speech by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba, <i>President of the Republic of Namibia</i> <p>African Union Anthem and Namibian National Anthem</p>
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	<p>Introductory Expert Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where does ABS come from – why is it important? <i>Dr. Bakary Kante, Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC) of UNEP</i> Why is ABS important for Africa <i>Peter Munyi, Chief Legal Officer of ICIPE</i> Why is ABS important for African indigenous and local communities <i>Lucy Mulenkei, Executive Director of the Indigenous Information Network (IIN)</i>

11.45	Technical inputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of the negotiations on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing <i>Worku Damena Yifru, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)</i> Status of the intersessional consultation process <i>Fernando Casas and Timothy Hodges, Co-Chairs of the ABS Working Group</i> Stakes of Africa in the negotiations of the international regime on ABS: An African perspective of the Montreal Annex <i>Sem Shikongo, ABS Intersessional Coordinator and Spokesperson of the African Group, Namibia</i>
13.00	Lunch
14.15	Ministerial Consultations (closed session) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on ABS</i>
15.30	Coffee break
16.00	Ministerial Consultations (closed session) – continued
17.30	End of day
Evening	Reception at Windhoek Country Club Resort ‘Mopane Night’
Tuesday, 09.03.2010	
09.00	Ministerial Consultations (closed session) – continued
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	Ministerial Consultations (closed session) – continued
11.45	Screening of Marula Movie – European Ministers join African Ministers
12.30	Lunch
13.30	Visit of ABS related business (Katutura) and research facilities (National Botanical Research Institute) in Windhoek
16.30	Return to Safari Court Hotel / Coffee break
17.00	Panel discussion with ABS stakeholders <i>Introduction and facilitation by Sem Shikongo (MET, Namibia)</i>
18.00	End of day
Evening	Welcoming dinner of the MET at the Safari Court Hotel Welcome addresses and announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, <i>Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism</i> Hon. Karen Ellemann, <i>Danish Minister for the Environment</i> Ursula Heinen-Esser, <i>Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)</i> H.E. Tor Christian Hildan, <i>Royal Norwegian Ambassador to South Africa</i> Dinner and entertainment by Cultural Troupe

Wednesday, 10.03.2010

09.00	African-European Ministers Exchange <i>Dialogue on the perspectives for the international regime on ABS and its implementation guided by the following inputs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview on positions and interests• Focused case presentations <i>Facilitated by Geoff Burton (United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies, UNU-IAS) and Sem Shikongo (ABS Intersessional Coordinator and Spokesperson of the African Group, Namibia)</i> <u>Objectives:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of the complexity of ABS• Understanding the African interests in ABS<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Benefit sharing & compliance• Understanding the European interests in ABS<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Access & legal certainty• Overview on potential political decision making needs at COP 10 HLS
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	African-European Ministers Exchange – continued <i>Dialogue on the perspectives for the international regime on ABS and its implementation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenges to achieve an equitable and practical IR: What needs to be solved at the international level, what not?
12.30	Lunch
14.00	African-European Ministers Exchange – continued <i>Dialogue on the perspectives for the implementation of ABS at national and regional level</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of opportunities for cooperation and support at the national and sub-regional level
15.30	Coffee break
16.00	African-European Ministers Exchange <i>Summary by the moderators</i>
16.30	Closing Ceremony
17.00	Press Conference With the Hon. Ministers from Namibia, South Africa (AMCEN Chair), Denmark, Germany, and a representative of UNEP and/or the SCBD
17.30	End of day and Departure