

## **Draft Concept Note**

### **Experts' Meeting on ABS CEPA**

to be held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 in Bonn, Germany.

### **Background**

After ten years of international negotiations, the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity* was adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan.

Based on this outcome, all member states to the CBD are now requested to arrange for national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. This will require new and reinforced efforts to communicate the objectives and concepts of ABS to a multitude of stakeholders with very diverse backgrounds, so as to ensure that ABS arrangements at the national, sub-regional and local levels be based on the broadest possible stakeholder agreement.

In order to contribute to implement COP decisions X / 1 and X / 18, the ABS Capacity development Initiative for Africa – together with partners – is aiming at preparing *Guidelines on ABS Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)* to support National Focal Points and other stakeholders responsible for ABS implementation. The guidelines are envisaged to be presented and discussed in the context of ICNP 1 which will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June in Montreal, Canada.

The Experts' Meeting will build on the results of earlier events on the same topic, notably the regional ABS workshops in Senegal and Madagascar (Nov/Dec 2008), the Pan-African workshop on ABS CEPA in Nairobi (March 2009) and the ABS CEPA Task Force Meeting in Bonn (June 2009).

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the meeting are to

- Jointly assess the contribution and requirements of CEPA for ABS implementation at the national and sub-regional levels;
- Decide upon the structure and content of guidelines for CEPA for ABS, to be used during different phases of implementation;
- Produce a comprehensively annotated outline, which to serve as key orientation for future ABS CEPA guidelines, as mandated under Article 21 of the Nagoya Protocol.

### **Expected outcome**

The experts' meeting is to produce an annotated outline for developing draft ABS CEPA guidelines, with a focus on implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa.

It is envisaged to present and discuss the results in the context of the First Meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS (ICNP-1) for further refinement. Eventually, this process aims at developing regionalized ABS CEPA toolkits for different African regions.