



4th Pacific Sub-regional Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing



Jointly organised by

the *ABS Capacity Development Initiative*,

the *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)*, and

the *Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)*

25-29 November 2013, University of the South Pacific (USP) Campus, Suva, Fiji

Background

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative – a multi-donor initiative hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – has been implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH since 2006. Following the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in 2010, the European Union tasked and funded GIZ to expand the ABS Initiative beyond its focus on Africa to include the Caribbean and the Pacific countries of the ACP Group of States.

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the ABS Initiative has convened three regional workshops and one training course since 2011, contributing to capacity building to promote ABS in the Pacific region.

The 4th workshop, co-organised by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and SPREP, will be held in Suva from 25 to 29 November 2013, back-to-back with the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. Building on the outcomes of previous workshops, a particular focus of this workshop will be on supporting ratification and the first steps of implementing the Nagoya Protocol at national level. Furthermore, the potential supporting role of regional organisations will be discussed.

Objectives

This workshop aims to support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific region by providing an opportunity for exchange of experiences and learning among stakeholders from all Pacific countries. Participants will be invited to discuss the processes and tools for the effective and efficient regulation of ABS at the regional, national and local levels. The objectives of the workshop will be:

- Awareness raising, exchange of experiences and training to support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- Exchange and training on key elements of national ABS policies, strategies and regulations
- Information on and exchange about GEF funded ABS capacity building projects under development in the Pacific region on the regional, national and local level

Programme Overview

The workshop will comprise the following elements of work:

Ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol – awareness raising and technical support

Under this part of the programme the SCBD aims to support national processes for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by providing detailed information on the rationale and basic procedures/modalities of ratifying or acceding to the Protocol and some guidance on key points to

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consider in the development of tools and documents (e.g. policy briefs or cabinet memos) to facilitate national processes towards ratification of the Protocol. .

Key elements of national ABS policies, strategies and regulations

Under this part of the programme participants will be invited to identify and discuss key elements of national ABS policies and strategies required for the development of regulatory frameworks for ABS. Special consideration will be given to traditional governance structures and processes in relation to the necessary establishment of *prior informed consent* procedures. There will also be room to discuss stakeholder concerns. Tools and mechanisms for the integration of ABS in relevant national policies and laws including NBSAPs, possible synergies with the implementation of other relevant international instruments as well as opportunities for regional and sub-regional cooperation will also be discussed.

ABS capacity building projects: design and opportunities

Representatives from several GEF funded projects will present the status of project development and discuss with participants the way forward. This includes projects addressing ABS capacity development at the local (GEF Small Grants Programme), as well as national and regional Projects funded under the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund. Participants will also be invited to identify and discuss options for mobilizing resources from other sources to support the implementation of the Protocol, taking into account relevant elements of the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/11.

Expected Outcomes

Based on the objectives and the agenda presented above, the following outcomes are expected:

- Capacities to undertake activities towards the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol among Pacific stakeholders are improved.
- Regional exchange of views and experiences among Pacific stakeholders on ABS is strengthened.
- Awareness among stakeholders in relation to planned ABS capacity development projects in the Pacific region is enhanced and national perspectives are flagged for integration in the regional project under development.

Participants

Up to 40 participants including CBD/ABS National Focal Points, representatives of competent national authorities on ABS, representatives of relevant regional organisations and international (research) institutions, NGOs, indigenous and local communities, as well as representatives of the private sector involved in bio-trade and bio-prospecting. The workshop will be held in the English language.

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