

## Seventh Pan-African ABS Workshop

*Hosted by the*

**Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa**

*24<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013, Hans Merensky Hotel & Spa, Phalaborwa, South Africa*

### Background

Since 2006, the ABS Initiative has convened six Pan-African workshops, as well as numerous training courses and workshops with a regional or issue-based focus. During the first three days of the sixth Pan-African Workshop held in Limbe, Cameroon, participants engaged in lively discussions on valorisation approaches and sustainable value chain development linking ABS, biotrade and scientific research on genetic resources (GRs). Further, participants discussed, based on a gap analysis report on the African Union Model Law, the possibility of the development of practical guidelines for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa.

In 2012, the ABS Initiative supported African negotiators for the preparation of the ICNP 2 in New Delhi, India and of the COP 11 in Hyderabad, India. Further activities in 2012 included (1) an ILC preparatory meeting for COP 11 and a basic training course on links between ABS and intellectual property rights in Bujumbura, Burundi, (2) Public, Private Partnership exchanges in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Maputo, Mozambique, (3) an expert workshop on ABS, forest and protected areas in Eschborn, Germany.

### Objectives of the workshop

Following the discussions of the 6th Pan African Workshop, the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission requested the ABS Initiative to support the development of the above mentioned guidelines for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa, therefore now referred to as the AU Guidelines. A draft of these will be presented at the workshop and will provide the framework for the thematic organization of the event. Main objectives of this workshop will therefore be to

- collect reflections and comments on the draft AU Guidelines regarding its use and usefulness, while also considering the “Traditional Knowledge and Plant Genetic Resources Guidelines” developed by SANBio/NEPAD,
- provide a practical example of national implementation by showcasing a local bioprospecting case, providing more input for further discussion, and
- reflect the outcomes of the workshop on traditional knowledge in Bengaluru, India, and further discuss questions regarding documentation, valorization and compliance of traditional knowledge.

### Expected outputs

In line with these objectives we expect to achieve the following outputs:

- Reflections, comments and technical approval of AU Guidelines, while taking the SANBio/NEPAD guidelines into consideration.

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- Coordination of the African Group on Article 10, and kick-start the process of the nomination of experts by each country.
- Identification of challenges and recommendations for the future work under the ABS Initiative on the linkages between ABS, TK and IPR for effective national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

In addition, the workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss the preparatory requirements for a not yet scheduled meeting of an expert group on Art. 10, and ICNP-3 tentatively scheduled for 3 to 7 February 2014. Furthermore, there will be an opportunity to discuss the draft EU regulation for implementing the Nagoya Protocol.

### **Participants**

Up to 140 participants including ABS National Focal Points, representatives of competent national authorities for ABS, representatives of relevant regional and international (research) institutions, NGO's, indigenous and local communities, as well as representatives of the private sector involved in bio-trade and bio-prospecting.

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

### **Contact**

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