THE ABS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

L'INITIATIVE DE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES POUR L'APA

External Evaluation 2013/2014

- Summary of findings -

8th Pan-African ABS Workshop
10-14 March 2014, Cotonou, Benin
Dr. Andreas Drews

funded by

BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable IFDD

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Danish Ministry of the Environment

implemented by

giz Programme Implementing the Biodiversity Convention

Terms of Reference

- Based on the ongoing phase of the ABS Initiative as summarized in the “Programme Document 2012-2015”

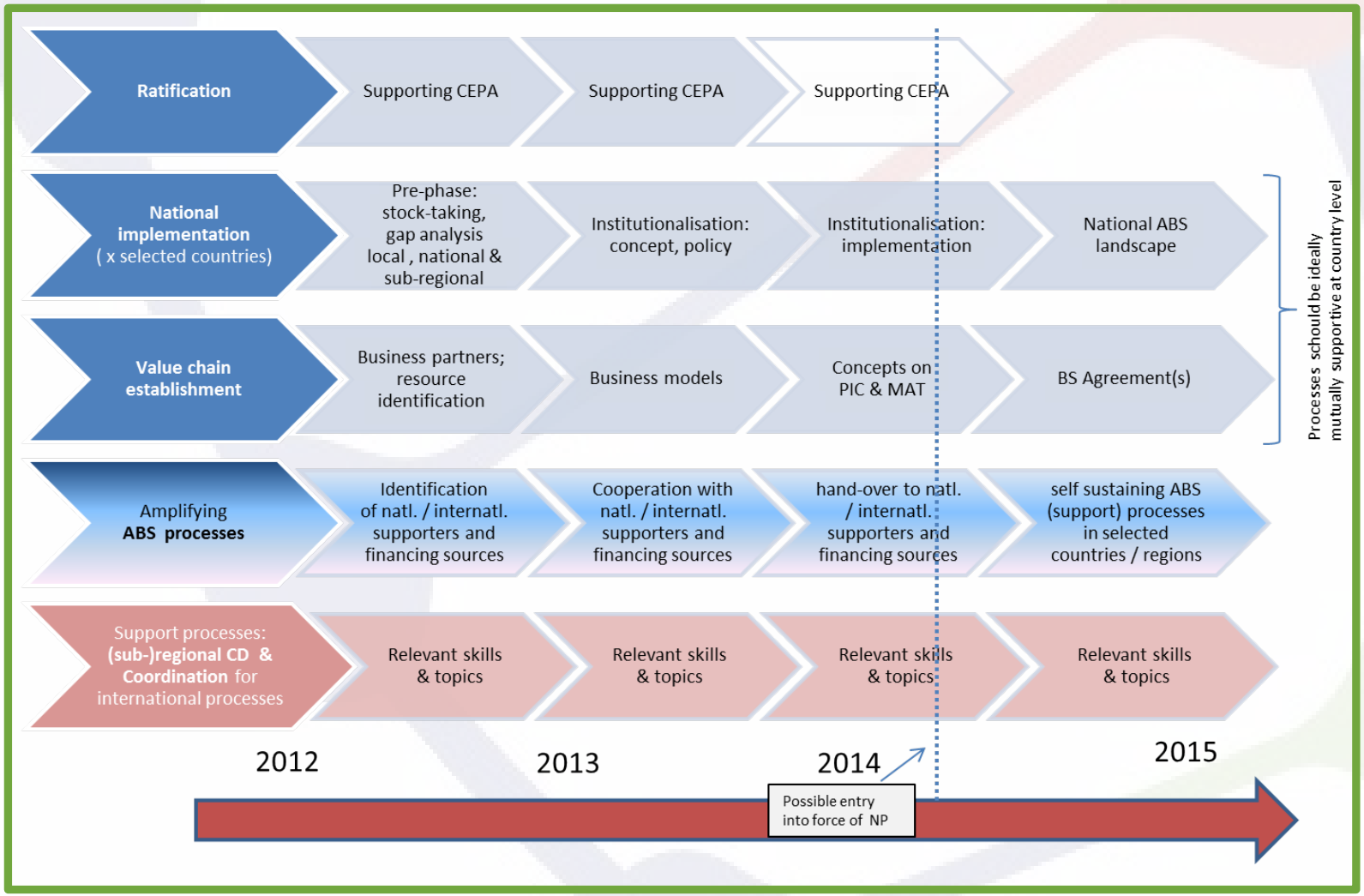
- Utilizing the OECD-DAC criteria for evaluating development assistance:
  - relevance
  - effectiveness
  - impact
  - efficiency
  - sustainability
- In addition specific areas of interest were:
  - appropriateness of the modes of delivery of the ABS Initiative
  - internal and external risks and opportunities
  - need to focussing / setting priorities
  - appropriateness of the governance structure of the ABS Initiative
  - learning opportunities from/for other comparable initiatives

Methodology

- Based on a standard tendering process contract awared in Oktober 2013 to *denkmodell GmbH*

- Analysis and clarification of the **existing results and monitoring framework** => precise, logical and consistent formulation of objectives and indicators as basis for the evaluation.
- In depth analysis of **secondary data** such as the relevant programme document and progress reports
- Collection of **primary data** using both quantitative as well as qualitative methods:
  - Web-based stakeholder survey (Nov-Dec 2013): Anglo- and Francophone questionnaire to 72 stakeholders – 47 respondents (67%)
  - Complemented by semi-structured individual and group interviews with key stake- and knowledge-holders (Feb 2014)

Core Processes for ABS Capacity Development 2012-2015



Results and Recommendations

Relevance

- ✓ The ABS mechanism is **highly relevant**
  - ✓ **Potentially powerful instrument** to leverage tangible impacts in provider countries
  - ✓ Strong desire by stakeholders to become **active players** in it
- ✓ The ABS Capacity Development Initiative is **highly relevant**
  - ✓ Yet, the successful implementation of ABS compliant value chains is still to be proven
  - ✓ The Initiative is highly appreciated for its **integrative approach** of facilitation, dialogue and capacity development on a subject that is highly complex
  - ✓ The ABS Initiative clearly meets the **demand of a high number of countries** in this regard.

Results and Recommendations

Effectiveness

- ✓ Stakeholder survey and interviews reveal **high appreciation for the effectiveness** of the ABS Initiative
  - ✓ 15 countries within the regional scope have ratified the NP while another 25 have initiated ratification related consultation processes
  - ✓ A growing number of (sub)regional organisations consider ABS as an important topic and contribute to the coordinated development of ABS implementation concepts

- ➢ **Room for improvement** of the effectiveness by
  - ➢ blending face-to-face workshops and training with, or in some cases even substituting through webinars and virtual knowledge events
  - ➢ thus freeing resources for other purposes (e.g. national support, ABS compliant value chain development) or the extension of training activities to a greater learning community.

Results and Recommendations

Impact with regards to the Initiative's overall objectives

1. *ACP countries have ratified the NP and benefit from its compliance mechanism*
2. *National ABS policies and regulatory frameworks enable stakeholders to enter into equitable ABS partnerships*
3. *Functioning ABS agreements are in place contributing to conservation & livelihoods*
4. *Partners are supporting ABS implementation*
5. *Approaches for implementing the Nagoya Protocol are regionally coordinated and harmonized*

- ✓ Assessing impact is **premature**
  - ✓ NP not entered into force yet, which is a precondition for most of the Initiative's overall objectives

- ➢ Realization of impact requires **investment and planning beyond 2015**

Results and Recommendations

Sustainability

- ✓ **Too early to fully assess** the sustainability of the Initiative's effects

- ➢ Improve **institutionalisation** of knowledge and the development of national and/or regional capacities, including training capacities
- ➢ Intensify support for the formation of **interdisciplinary multistakeholder groups on ABS at national level**, leading eventually to a broader consolidation of ABS knowledge and its dissemination in targeted countries

Results and Recommendations

Gender equality

- ✓ Rather marginal role so far
- ➢ More prominent role particularly in the support for ABS compliant value chains

Stake- and rightsholder participation

- ✓ Core constituting element in the approach of the Initiative
- ✓ Highly participatory nature with regard to decision-making
- ✓ Exchange with private sector and ILC stakeholders is much desired and appreciated by interviewees

Results and Recommendations

Modes of delivery

- ✓ Workshops, training courses, CEPA, and best practices with the private sector are considered **most appropriate** by the stakeholders
- ✓ **No clear evidence** whether and which activities (information exchange, knowledge management, technical papers and studies, technical consultations) would be less important or even dispensable
- ✓ High demand for **support and advice at national level**

- ➢ Develop **process manuals** ("how to go about it at national level") to increase the effectiveness in providing support at national level
- ➢ As **ABS compliant value chains** are the ultimate goal of all interventions, the Initiative should put their development and implementation more strongly in the focus of activities.

Results and Recommendations

Governance structure (steering committees)

- ✓ Perceived as appropriate by stakeholders
- ➢ Respondents of the online survey suggested a **stronger involvement of private sector as well as civil society** representatives.

Learning opportunities (from / for other initiatives)

- ➢ Compile and systemise in a consistent way the Initiative's lessons learnt and best practices ("Why did we do it the way we did and what are our experiences with this?")

Results and Recommendations

Intervention logic and monitoring approach

- ✓ Comprehensive intervention logic
- ✓ Formulation of objectives at different levels partially too ambitious and unrealistic (attribution gap)
- ✓ Several shortcomings of the monitoring approach regarding the
  - ✓ monitoring process,
  - ✓ formulation and measurement of indicators
  - ✓ format of presentation

- ➢ Reformulate programme purpose to what the ABS Initiative can be held accountable for
- ➢ Refine monitoring approach (continuous exercise, condensed overview of programme status, baseline data, qualitative assessments)

Summary of Grading

Relevance	**A**
Effectiveness	**B**
Support for the timely ratification of the Nagoya Protocol	**B**
Support for the participatory national translation of the NP	**C**
Support for the development of ABS compliant value chains with the private sector	**B**
Partnerships are expanded with a view of integrating ABS in policies and practices of partners	**B**
Appropriate ABS implementation concepts are developed and internationally co-ordinated	**B**
Efficiency	**B**
Impact	**C**
Sustainability	**C**
Gender Equality	**C**
Stake- and rightsholder participation	**B**
Modes of delivery	**B**
Governance structure	**B**
Quality of intervention logic	**B**
Quality and use of monitoring system	**C**

A = very good; B = good; C = problems; D = deficiencies

THE ABS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

L'INITIATIVE DE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES POUR L'APA

Thank you

… more on ABS and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative

-> brochure "From Global to local "

-> www.abs-initiative.info

funded by

BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE la francophonie

INSTITUT DE LA FRANCOPHONIE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE IFDD

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DANISH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

implemented by

giz Programme Implementing the Biodiversity Convention