



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Environment & Tourism

THE ABS
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



L'INITIATIVE DE
RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES
POUR L'APA

Workshop on ABS Implementation for Indigenous and Local Communities

10-14 November 2014, Windhoek, Namibia

- Outline -

Background

Since its formation in 2006, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative has convened various workshops and trainings specifically targeting Indigenous and Local Communities (ILCs) from African countries, supporting their understanding of and involvement in processes and tools surrounding the negotiation and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in general.

As a growing number of African countries are now in the process of developing their domestic ABS policies and legislations, ILCs have increasingly asked for support in strategy development regarding these implementation processes on the one hand and support for coordination and activities at the national level on the other.

Responding to these demands, this regional ILC workshop will focus on ABS implementation, discussing related policies and strategies for a more coordinated and effective engagement of ILCs in the national implementation processes. Furthermore, the workshop intends to explore possibilities for support and funding for ILCs at the national level, hoping to initiate longer-term activities.

Being one of the most advanced countries in the region when it comes to ABS implementation and community involvement, Namibia was chosen as host country for the workshop. The programme will include a field trip dealing with the Namibian approach to ABS. Two Namibian institutions involved in ABS cases will be visited, giving participants the opportunity to learn about the multiple aspects of the utilisation of genetic resources in Namibia and to directly communicate with involved communities and other stakeholders.

Objectives

The workshop aims to strengthen ILCs' coordination and engagement in ABS policy development and implementation. Accordingly, the following objectives will be pursued:

- Build awareness of the opportunities the Nagoya Protocol offers to ILCs and provide an overview of the status of ABS implementation in participants' countries
- Discuss and identify goals and demands of ILCs regarding ABS implementation
- Discuss and develop strategies and tools for effective advocacy and participation of ILCs in ABS implementation
- Strengthen ILCs' coordination at national and regional level and explore existing means of support and sources of funding for activities in the countries
- Develop a common vision of African ILCs in the implementation of ABS on the continent as well as concrete action plans for next steps at country level



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Participants

Up to 44 participants from ten African countries (Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda) will attend the workshop. Ideally, up to four people from each country will participate as teams, each including local community members, community facilitators and NGO representatives. Participants will be selected based upon their applications. The country teams will be required to do some preparatory work before the workshop. Interpretation English-French-English will be provided during the plenary sessions of the workshop.

