



The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing

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Background Information

- The Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio "Earth Summit"). It remained open for signature until 4 June 1993, by which time it had received 168 signatures.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity was inspired by the world community's growing commitment to sustainable development.

- Biodiversity
 - “aims at the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
 - “aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health”
- Nagoya protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
 - “aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources.

What does the Nagoya Protocol Mean for The Bahamas?

- **High level of biological endemism**
 - **Bahamas and Nagoya**
 - Natural resources are valuable ecologically, culturally, socially and economically.
- **Aichi Target 16**
 - By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Bioprospecting



Pseudopterogorgia elisabethae/Antillogorgia Elisabethae

- *Occurs throughout The Bahamas*
- *Contains naturally occurring compounds*
 - *Psuedopterosins*
- *Research then harvesting*
- *Exportation of the resource*

Memorandum of Understanding

- Parties
 - Government of The Bahamas
 - Lipo Chemical Inc.
 - March Harbour Exporters
- Agreement
 - Permits and royalty fees to be paid before harvesting
 - Creation of a National Database
 - Facilitation of scientific monitoring on harvesting sites
 - Development of methodology for economic harvesting
- Concerns
- Fisheries Regulations prohibits use of artificial breathing devices while harvesting any marine resource
- Questions
 - Are royalties enough?
 - Is monitoring and facilitation occurring?
 - National benefit?

Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in The Bahamas

- There has been no accession or ratification.
- Project in the GEF pipeline
- MAIN objective is to build capacity to meet obligations of the Protocol
 - Having a National Strategy
 - Mainstreaming ABS into environmental policy
 - National enabling environment for implementation
 - Applied ABS arrangements

Questions?



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