

## Access and Benefit Sharing

# The ABS Capacity Development Initiative

November 2012

Bringing ABS Multi-Stakeholder Processes to Life: Process Architecture and Dynamics in the National and Regional Context

**27 to 30 November 2012, Paris, France (French)**

**11 to 14 December 2012, Feldafing, Germany (English)**

After ten years of negotiations, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in October 2010 at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan.

The *Nagoya Protocol* is now the point of departure for a series of processes to implement ABS at the national level. These include ratification of the Nagoya Protocol; defining overall ABS policies and strategies; putting in place domestic ABS regulations; establishing institutional arrangements; dealing with traditional knowledge; dealing with trans-boundary issues; and valorisation strategies.

These processes require the involvement and participation of a broad variety of actors, who come to the table with different perspectives and interests: from government agencies, to scientists, to businesses, to indigenous peoples and local communities, and many others. In short, ABS implementation takes place in a matrix of diverse interests.

National Focal Points and other individuals who are responsible for ABS implementation need conceptual as well as methodological knowledge and skills to deal with this task. They need to be able to analyse stakeholder landscapes and, with the mandate of the parties involved, develop and steer well-designed processes. This includes defining and communicating their own role and position.

This training teaches the skills required for this task and provides an opportunity to practice them.

The training is part of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative. Background information about the Initiative and full documentation of previous events is provided on [www.abs-initiative.info](http://www.abs-initiative.info).

## Learning objectives

After this training, the participants will have a better understanding of the dynamics of multi-stakeholder processes for ABS implementation. In particular, they will be able to:

- Analyse and interpret the national landscape of stakeholders with their ABS-related perspectives and interests;
- Position themselves and their institutions in the network of stakeholders;
- Develop strategies for communication and action with a variety of ABS stakeholders;
- Design and manage processes that support multi-stakeholder communication and co-operation for ABS implementation.

## Methodological approach

- Interactive lectures and discussions using visual aids;
- Practical exercises related to the participants' national ABS situation and cases
- Action-oriented experiments;
- Seminar reader.

## Programme elements

### Revision of Basics

- The notion of "process" and its application to ABS
- 8 Fields of Action for ABS implementation, and how communication and co-operation can help

### Stakeholder Relationships

- The landscape of ABS stakeholders
- Analysis of stakeholders and their ABS-related knowledge, attitudes and practices

- Stakeholder relationships and the forces that drive communication and co-operation

### Shaping the process

- Forms of communication and co-operation
- Phases of multi-stakeholder processes
- Roles and mandates in the process, and the notion of "container"
- Communication and co-operation objectives
- Channels and messages
- Rhythm and timing

## Participants

The training is to be held in two versions: One for English speaking participants (mostly from Eastern and Southern Africa) and one for French speaking participants (mostly from Northern, Western and Central Africa).

Up to 15 participants from each of the two language regions will be invited to attend, **in teams of 3 participants per country**. Priority will be given to National Focal Points and other responsible persons from countries where implementation processes have already begun and/or where bioprospecting processes are currently ongoing.

## Contact

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[« Back](#)

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