

THE ABS
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



L'INITIATIVE DE
RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES
POUR L'APA

10th Pan-African Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing

*Hosted by the Direction des Parcs Nationaux du Sénégal
6 to 10 March 2017, Dakar, Senegal*

- Concept Note -

Background

Since the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilisation (ABS) in 2014, African countries have intensified activities to adapt or develop their domestic ABS systems. At the regional level, guidance is provided by the 2015 African Union Guidelines for a Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and the African Group continues to play an important role in the negotiations of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol. Recent implementation of ABS measures in countries with a strong user landscape, e.g. in the EU, is resulting in an increase of demands for ABS-compliant access to genetic resources (GR) and associated traditional knowledge (aTK) from African countries, reiterating the need for functioning ABS systems.

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative supports the elaboration of institutional and regulatory frameworks, the development of ABS-compliant value chains and the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in ABS in its African partner countries. Furthermore, it continues to offer capacity building services on ABS and related topics to stakeholders from all African countries as well as from the Caribbean and Pacific regions, and supports their involvement in ABS-related international processes.

As an active member of the African Group, Senegal has contributed significantly to the ABS-related negotiations under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol from the early stages. In that capacity, Senegal has also participated in the Steering Committee of the ABS Initiative for years and thus helped shaping capacity development activities on ABS across the continent. In June 2016, the country has officially become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol. The ABS Initiative is delighted that Senegal agreed to host its 10th Pan-African ABS Workshop.

Approach and Objectives

This 10th Pan-African ABS Workshop will provide a forum for National ABS Focal Points and representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups – including indigenous peoples and local communities, research and the private sector – to obtain information, exchange experiences and discuss potential strategies for the implementation of ABS from an African perspective.

Specifically, the main objectives of this workshop are:

- Participants are updated on international and regional processes in ABS and related fields, including on the outcomes of COP 13 / COP MOP 2 of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol in Cancún, Mexico, and prepare for follow-up with a view to COP 14 / COP MOP 3.
- Partner countries of the ABS Initiative share experiences from their national ABS implementation processes, including the development of national institutional and regulatory frameworks, the development of ABS-compliant value chains, as well as approaches to involving indigenous peoples and local communities in ABS;



- Reflecting on key concepts of ABS and the interplay between users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, participants discuss relevant key topics, such as systematic approaches to the development of institutional and regulatory frameworks and instruments for monitoring and compliance.

One day of the workshop programme will be dedicated to case studies from Senegal. This day will provide an opportunity to learn about the domestic context of ABS and apply the theoretical elements of the workshop programme by discussing particular practical examples.

Adding to the formal workshop programme, the presence of resource people from the ABS Initiative and several partner organisations provides an opportunity for participants to seek targeted, personal advice on relevant topics throughout the week.

Participants

The over 100 participants will include National ABS Focal Points, representatives of Competent National Authorities for ABS, relevant regional and international organisations and indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as stakeholders from research, civil society and the private sector involved in biotrade and bioprospecting.

Simultaneous interpretation between English and French will be provided throughout the plenary sessions of the workshop.