

Progress Report

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1 Summary

In 2005, building on their long-standing cooperation, Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the German development cooperation (BMZ and GTZ) discussed to jointly promote capacity development on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) in Eastern and Southern Africa. That same year, DGIS thus co-funded GTZ's supra-regional programme "*Implementing the Biodiversity Convention*" (GTZ-BIODIV Programme) in order to organize a regional ABS capacity development workshop. This workshop, conceptualised as an initial multi-stakeholder workshop, was held in October 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop, which was attended by 50 participants from 15 different countries **took stock of bioprospecting in Africa and assessed ABS capacity development needs**. The workshop's results were presented at the 4th meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on ABS. Based on the substantive workshop results, the encouraging feedback of the participants and the overwhelming interest of stakeholders from all over Africa, DGIS and GTZ agreed to continue their cooperation until 2008 under the framework of the **Dutch-German ABS Capacity-Building Initiative for Africa**. The Initiative was launched at CBD COP-8 in March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil. Since 2006, two strategic Africa-wide multi-stakeholder workshops, about 30 thematically specific or regionally focused ABS workshops and trainings as well as technical briefing sessions for African delegates prior to the ABS Working Groups and COP-9 have been conducted. Taking into account different levels of ABS implementation, language barriers and diverse legal systems, the Initiative has so far established three **sub-regional platforms achieving the following milestones**:

a) Southern and Eastern Africa:

ABS vision for Africa; African position on the "Certificate of Origin"; workshop on ABS, business & commercial research; ABS negotiation skills trainings; agenda setting on the interface of ABS and protected areas; establishment of a transboundary Hoodia Working Group;

b) Central Africa:

Study on relevant legislation in the COMIFAC countries; definition of cornerstones for subregional ABS framework and national ABS regulations; participation of indigenous and local communities in the regional ABS discussions;

c) West Africa, Maghreb and Francophone Indian Ocean Islands:

Roadmap for common ABS process; establishment of an ABS communicator's network, priority setting on national awareness-raising on ABS; ABS negotiation skills training;

Beyond the support at the sub-regional level, there is a political necessity for a common African position in the current negotiations of the International ABS Regime. In order to facilitate the development of this common position, viewpoints regarding the potential elements of the International Regime on ABS have been elaborated in all sub-regional processes. Prior to the ABS-Working Groups (WGABS 5, Montreal, October 2007; WGABS 6, Geneva, January 2008; and COP 9, Bonn, May 2008), the Initiative provided a meeting platform with simultaneous interpretation of the African ABS Focal Points, enabling them to discuss the results of the sub-regional workshops and to elaborate a common

position. Technical briefs on the agenda items of the ABS negotiations were prepared in French and English for the African delegates by the independent Centre for International Sustainable Development and Law (CISDL). The efforts for **pan-African team building achieved the following milestones:**

d) Delegates' briefing:

Common position of Francophone and Anglophone countries; improved preparedness of the African Group at the ABS negotiations; results of multi-stakeholder processes integrated into African ABS negotiation positions; increased collaboration and harmonization of standpoints within the African negotiator's Group – also regarding other Programmes of Work of the CBD

e) Mahé, Minister briefing:

First High-Level Dialogue on ABS in Africa ever; significantly raised awareness of ABS at African decision maker's level; elaboration of joint African Ministerial position on ABS for COP 9 High-Level Segment

From the very beginning, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) became a permanent co-operation partner to the Initiative providing substantive inputs on the ongoing negotiation process and logistical support for the delegates' briefings. In order to further the integration of Francophone African countries into the Initiative's activities, specific support was provided by the Government of Quebec, and the *Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie* (IEPF). In 2008, IEPF joined the Initiative as a permanent partner and consequently the Initiative was renamed into the **ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa**.

These co-operations are seen as a first step developing the Dutch-German partnership into a future multi-donor initiative for a concerted ABS capacity development within Africa as an entire global region. Thus following the spirit and the requirements of the **Paris Declaration**, the Initiative with its joint Steering Committee will contribute to an improved donor harmonization and aid effectiveness - better valorising the potential for poverty alleviation at the interface of natural resources management, trade and governance.

It has become obvious that considerable individual knowledge and capacity on ABS and related issues exist in many African countries. However, there are significant gaps and hindrances for the application or use of these individual capacities, which are mostly caused by **inadequate governance structures and policies** at the local, national, supra-regional and international level. It is thus necessary to promote approaches that are at the same time comprehensive, participatory and flexible when strengthening institutions, adequately adapting policies and developing relevant long-term and flexible measures. This "**systemic approach to capacity development**" is the Initiative's characterizing feature and particularly valuable in light of the complexity and open-ended character of the ABS negotiation process. The initiative has among other things contributed to the increased preparedness of African delegates in the ongoing negotiation of an international regime on ABS.

At COP-9 in Bonn in May 2008, the African Group officially expressed its gratitude to the Initiative's assistance to the region, underlining the **necessity for continuous support** for ABS capacity development in Africa. Taking into account this request and the increasing interest of other donors and partners to support the Initiative it was decided by the Steering

Committee to transform the Initiative into a **multi-donor initiative spanning nature conservation, poverty alleviation and governance**.

For this reason this report is designed as a progress report and not as a final report of an ending cooperation agreement. Specific financial reports are submitted together with this narrative report to the individual donors.

The Initiative is embedded in the ongoing activities of the GTZ's BIODIV Programme (www.gtz.de/biodiv), implemented by GTZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

2 Programme Implementation in 2008

Building on the successful cooperation with IEPF and Government of Quebec, Canada, which significantly contributed to bridge the language barrier between Francophone and Anglophone African negotiators and the resulting positive feedback about the impact of the Initiative on the negotiation capacities of the African Group during WGABS 5 during October 2007 in Montreal IEPF decided to join the Dutch-German Initiative in 2008 as a permanent partner, which was consequently renamed into the **ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa**. The additional support made available by IEPF allowed to further strengthen the integration of Francophone and Anglophone countries through extending interpretation services not only to delegates briefings prior to negotiations but also to pan-African workshops.

2.1 Revision of the Initiative's website www.abs-africa.info

In 2008, the website was substantially updated to better reflect the conceptual development of the Initiative and fully developed in to a bilingual website offering all substantial information in French and English.

Further structural changes are planned for 2009 to ensure accessibility vis-à-vis a growing amount of information.

2.2 Workshops and Trainings

The following list provides an overview on the workshops and trainings which were organised under the initiative in 2008. Full information about the workshops and trainings, except for those organized by the GTBAC of COMIFAC, is available on the website of the Initiative, whereas Annex 1 includes workshop reviews for all listed events.

- Capacity Building and Briefing of African Delegates prior to the 6th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing

A workshop organized in cooperation with the African Union Commission, the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, and in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 18th to 19th January 2008, Geneva, Switzerland.

- Meeting of African Leaders on Access and Benefit-Sharing in preparation for the High-level Segment of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

A workshop for African leaders to prepare for the high-level segment of COP 9 – with a special focus on ABS – organized in partnership with the Government of the

Seychelles and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 10th to 12th April 2008, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles.

- African Regional Preparatory Meeting prior to the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

A workshop organized in cooperation with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, and in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 17th to 18th May 2008, Bonn, Germany.

- Negotiation Skills in the ABS Arena

Two trainings organized in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of Namibia, 17th to 19th September and 22nd to 24th September 2008, Windhoek, Namibia.

- Negotiation Skills in the ABS Arena

Two trainings organized in partnership with the Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET), 8th to 10th October and 13th to 15th October 2008, Tunis, Tunisia.

- Renforcement de capacités en matière d'accès aux ressources génétiques et de partage des avantages (APA)

A workshop organized in cooperation with the *Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature, des Bassins de Rétention et Lacs Artificiels*, 3rd to 7th November 2008, Dakar, Senegal.

- 3rd Pan-African ABS Capacity Development Workshop

A workshop hosted by the *Ministère de l'Environnement des Eaux et Forêts et du Tourisme*, 24th to 28th November 2008, Antsiranana (Diego Suarez), Madagascar.

More detailed information on the objectives, target groups and workshop products is available in the **workshop reviews** in Annex 1.

2.3 Documentation and Publications

The existing **Technical Briefs** on the main components of the international regime on ABS were updated by the Montreal based Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) as background documents for the African delegates at WGABS 6 January 2008, in Geneva and again at COP 9, May 2008, in Bonn.

The "**Position of the African Group Regarding the Main Components**" of the international regime on ABS as developed by the African delegates based on the inputs and discussions during the regional preparatory meeting and formulated during WGABS 6, January 2008, in Geneva is contained in UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/16 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/information/cop-09-inf-16-en.pdf>).

After COP 9 the African Group initiated a process to formulate as invited by COP decision IX/12 operational text including explanations in respect of the main components of the international regime on ABS. The consultative process was driven and coordinated by the appointed intersessional spokesperson of the African Group and facilitated by the Initiative. The submission is contained in UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/7/INF/1 as submitted to the SCBD in December 2008 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/abs/abswg-07/information/abswg-07-inf-01-en.pdf>).

For communicating the concept and approach of the Initiative the existing **poster** in the English and French language were updated. The posters were used at various occasions, e.g. delegates briefings, workshops as well as WGASB 6 and COP 9.

Facilitating information exchange and **documenting bioprospecting experiences** is a central element under the Initiative. Based on the cases presented by participants in the various workshops several documentations had been commissioned to African resource persons in 2007:

- *Argania spinosa* in Morocco
- *Eragrostis tef* in Ethiopia
- *Hoodia gordonii* in Southern Africa
- *Pelargonium sidoides* in South Africa
- *Prunus africana* in Cameroon and Uganda
- *Thaumatococcus daniellii* in the Ivory Coast
- *Vernonia galamensis* in Ethiopia

The case documentations follow the structure agreed between the Initiative and the CBD Secretariat. However the substantive information varied considerably between the different cases, partly because of the differences in the general characteristics of the cases, partly because of the different amount of information available on the different cases. It was therefore decided not to publish the cases in a brochure of the Initiative at COP 9 and to postpone publication of the case documentations until an appropriate common frame could be developed. In the context of the “3rd Pan-African ABS Capacity Development Workshop” an additional case became documented using the existing format:

- *The International Cooperative Biodiversity Group: Biodiversity conservation and drug discovery in Madagascar* (http://www.wlbcenter.org/madagascar_north.htm)

Lessons learned in compiling these case studies are that (1) new developments are outdating established information rather quickly, and (2) establishing a solid information base requires intensive research work. To address these lessons it was discussed to use an electronic format to publish the cases – whether in the format of a database, a wiki or a blog was to be decided later. The set new aim was to present a prototype of the electronic documentation at WGABS 7, April 2009, in Paris.

3 Results Indicators and Impacts

Implementing the Initiative and at the same time trying to capture the impact of the Initiative with the initially agreed indicators turned out to be a major challenge for several reasons:

- Indicators were too detailed and specific regarding the assumed interventions.
- Solid baselines were impossible to establish.
- Topics addressed in the indicators require long-term attention to achieve measurable and attributable impacts

Based on these experiences the set of indicators for the funding phase 2009 to 2011 was completely refined with the objective to have workable indicators which inform about the impacts of the Initiative at the different levels of intervention

In the following we report on the initially agreed indicators covering 26 months of originally planned 36 months of project implementation.

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- Public and political awareness in African countries on **ABS as an instrument for poverty alleviation** and biodiversity conservation is improved.
 - Increased media coverage - print & broadcasting - on ABS (bioprospecting cases, legal and political aspects, international negotiations) in selected countries.
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To achieve an attributable change in media coverage either a long-term engagement in specific countries is necessary or provision of relevant and usable information to media is required. So far, the Initiative is not yet long enough active in individual countries. The process to directly support national implementation started in 2008 with Madagascar and South Africa and will pick up in the future. Furthermore, communicating ABS is a challenge in itself, which is not appropriately addressed in the existing CEPA tool kits. The Initiative started to work on this issue by establishing in 2008 a CEPA task force recruited largely from African ABS and communication experts

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- Relevant European **private sector companies** are **sensitized** about the ABS process in African countries.
 - At least 10 European private sector companies assess their interest for involvement and give feedback.
 - At least two bioprospecting agreements with private sector companies are initiated through and facilitated by GTZ.
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Business representatives have been involved in the several workshops of the Initiative. Furthermore, the Initiative is actively participating in an ABS Round Table with the private sector and the Business & Biodiversity Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) to establish more contacts with the private sector and to inform and sensitize about the ABS processes in African countries.

For the International Conference "Business and Biodiversity", 2nd to 3rd April 2008, in Bonn jointly organized by the Global Nature Fund and GTZ the Initiative took responsibility for organizing the Discussion Forum (2) "Biofairness instead of Biopiracy - Examples of Companies Using Genetic Resources in Line with the Convention on Biological Diversity" (http://www.globalnature.org/docs/02_vorlage.asp?id=27880&domid=1011&sp=E&addlastid=&m1=11089&m2=13325&m3=11182&m4=27880).

Sofar the Initiative established working relations with the following European companies:

- *Cognis France - Laboratoire Sérobiologiques, France*
- *Dr. Willmar Schwabe Pharmaceuticals, Germany*
- *Euromed S.A., Spain*
- *Health & Performance Food International bv., The Netherlands*
- *InterMed Discovery GmbH, Germany*
- *Martin Bauer GmbH & Co. KG, Germany*
- *Novartis Pharma AG, Switzerland*
- *Novozymes A/S, Denmark*
- *Vernique BioTech Ltd., United Kingdom*

Representatives of these companies participate actively in workshops and other events (e.g. side events at international meetings) of the Initiative, share their substantive experiences in

bioprospecting and biotrade, and engage with an open learning attitude in discussions with African stakeholders.

Building on the practical approach of Namibia towards valorizing genetic/biological resources through bioprospecting and biotrade the Initiative is supporting the Namibian Indigenous Plant Task Team to establish a bioprospecting agreement with one of the above mentioned companies.

Furthermore, the Initiative is providing training and advice to the Government of Madagascar for the negotiation of the third phase of the bioprospecting agreement with the *Madagascar International Cooperative Biodiversity Group* with the US companies *Dow AgroSciences* and *Eisai Research Institute*, an independent subsidiary of *Eisai Inc.*, as commercial members.

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- A **network** of relevant and affected **stakeholders** in different countries is **exchanging views** on and approaches for the implementation of ABS in Africa, **including opportunities for poverty alleviation**.
 - A quarterly newsletter on ABS relevant news for Africa is circulated.

A taskforce on communication education and public awareness (CEPA) of some 12 participants encompassing all stakeholder groups of ABS in Africa has been established during 3rd pan-African Workshop in Madagascar, which decided at the CEPA ABS workshop in March 2009 at UNEP, Nairobi to establish – with support of the Initiative’s secretariat – a regular newsletter with contributions of the participants/readers. The first edition will cover inter alia WGABS 7. Furthermore, a regular, partially confidential email exchange between the CBD / ABS Focal Points has been established.

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- African participants contribute actively to the **negotiation** and development of an **international ABS regime**, integrating successfully **African** perspectives and **positions**.
 - Increasing number of substantial interventions of African delegations in the international negotiations (COP, ABS-WG).
 - Increased number Inf-Docs and side events of African institutions, organisations and Governments in the international negotiation process (COP, ABS-WG).

The means of verification of this indicator focus on the quantitative aspects of participation, i.e. increasing numbers of “...”. However, the substantive and coordinated preparation of the African delegates resulted in less African interventions as countries did notably less speak individually but coordinated with the appointed African spokesperson even by physically assembling around the seat of the spokesperson to prepare the African Group interventions.

The substantive improvement of the African participation already in WGABS 5 is exemplarily highlighted by the letter of the Co-chairs of WG-ABS5 to the Executive Secretary of the CBD:

Von: Hodges, Tim [NCR] [Tim.Hodges@ec.gc.ca]
Gesendet: Donnerstag, 18. Oktober 2007 19:22
An: ahmed.djoghla@cbd.int
Cc: fccasas@gmail.com
Betreff: Participation of African Group at ABSWG-5

Dear Ahmed,

We are writing to you regarding the Dutch-German ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa.

As you are aware, the fifth meeting of Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABSWG-5) was held in Montreal, 8 - 12 October 2007.

Prior to the commencement of ABSWG-5, we had an opportunity to brief African participants in the Workshop on Capacity Building, which was organized in part by the Dutch-German ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa.

On the basis of this briefing (including the quality and substance of the subsequent questions and comments), we were left with the clear impression that African delegations were substantively prepared for the forthcoming negotiations.

This impression was quickly confirmed at the ABSWG meeting. Indeed, it was evident throughout ABSWG-5 that the African region was not only well-organised and strategic in its approach but also capable of dealing in depth with substantive issues.

We are of the view that Dutch-German ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa was a significant factor in the degree of African preparedness at ABSWG-5. In our assessment, the Initiative contributed to a better understanding among African delegates of the ABSWG-5 agenda and related items. Further, the high degree of position co-ordination among African delegates played a major role in facilitating the ABSWG-5 process as whole.

We believe that holding similar "pre-session" workshops at future ABSWG meetings would be of high potential value to the African region and the entire Working Group.

Finally, we wish inform you that on the basis of the above, we have confirmed our intention to attend the workshop scheduled by the Dutch-German Initiative for Nairobi in December. Not only will the workshop provide a key opportunity to meet with African negotiators in advance of ABSWG-6, it also represents an opportunity to learn more about this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Timothy Hodges and Fernando Casas

Co-Chairs
Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing
UN Convention on Biological Diversity

As mentioned above, the African Group initiated after COP 9 a consultative process to formulate operational text including explanations in respect of the main components of the international regime on ABS and submitted in December 2008 for the first time in the ASB negotiations a coordinated submission as contained in UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/7/INF/1 to the SCBD (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/abs/abswg-07/information/abswg-07-inf-01-en.pdf>).

Side events are an effective means for agenda setting and initiating substantive debates on specific issues during international meetings. In the context of the ABS negotiations African stakeholders were involved in the following side events:

- WGABS 4, 01/2006: *ABS Initiative*: Needs and Options for ABS Implementation in Africa: Recommendations of the "Regional ABS Capacity-Building Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa". – Contributions of **Ethiopia, Kenya, and Malawi**.
 - COP 8, 03/2006: *ABS Initiative*: "Review of First Experiences, Discussion of Needs and Defining Steps Forward" – Contributions by **Kenya** and Natural Justice (**South Africa**)
 - WGABS 5, 10/2007: *ABS Initiative*: "Achievements and upcoming activities." – Contributions by **Ethiopia, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Central Africa**, and Natural Justice (**South Africa**).
 - COP 9, 05/2008: *ABS Initiative*: "ABS Capacity Development in Africa, experiences and scaling-up." – Contributions by **Egypt, Morocco, Namibia**, and Natural Justice (**South Africa**).
 - COP 9, 05/2008: *Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia*: "ABS and Protected Areas: Issues to consider." – Contributions by Australia, the **Seychelles** and WWF.
-
- Political and legal **framework conditions in African countries** for bioprospecting as prerequisite for gaining benefits are **improved**.
 - Increased number of countries engages in the development of national ABS legislation/regulations.
 - In at least 2 cases efforts for regional harmonisation are initiated and ongoing.
 - At least 4 bioprospecting agreements involving the private sector are initiated.

Proposals for support to develop, finalise or revise national ABS regulations have been submitted to the Initiative. They have been approved and are being implemented (Madagascar) or will be implemented starting 2009 (Liberia) or are under scrutiny (Cameroon, Kenya).

Supported and advised by the Initiative the Central African countries (organised as COMIFAC) decided to develop ABS regulations in a harmonised manner, i.e. develop a common ABS strategy, guidelines and principles at the regional level in order to then adapt and implement these at the national level. A similar process for the SADC region has been requested by several southern African governments.

Namibia is in contact with a German company to establish a bioprospecting agreement and approached the Initiative exploring the possibility of a public-private-partnership arrangement to overcome hurdles in the potential business development. It is expected that in 2009 the discussion will become more concrete and the Initiative can be actively involved.

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- **Participatory processes** are **established** to include civil society in the development and implementation of national ABS regulations focusing on opportunities how local communities may benefit from bioprospecting agreements.
 - In an increasing number of countries developing and implementing national ABS regulations dialogue fora between political decision makers and civil society on ABS are established.

In the context of the San-Hoodia trust fund in South Africa and the political debate between Namibian and South African stakeholders about ownership of *Hoodia gordonii* about as well as the different approaches of both countries in developing and implementing bioprospecting regulations the idea was launched by the South African NGO Natural Justice to host a Hoodia conference in early 2009 to gather all involved stakeholders from the governments, business sector and indigenous and local communities of the two countries to discuss the open questions and establish – if possible – a joint Hoodia working group, which could be tasked to develop new perspectives for Hoodia marketing and benefit-sharing after Unilever returned the licence to the British biotech company Phytopharm Plc.

4 Outlook

With the round table dinner invitation for potential donors and supporters of ABS capacity development during the 6th meeting of the ABS Working Group, January 2008 in Geneva the first step was taken to develop the Initiative into a multi-donor platform. The interest generated resulted in concrete interest to support the initiative by Austria, Denmark, EU Commission, Finland, France, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and UNEP. Progress has been made with the following potential partners:

- **Denmark** is considering the Programme Document 2009 to 2011 at high level in the Ministry of Environment focussing on improving the Ministerial dialogue on ABS between Africa and e.g. the EU.
- The **EU Commission** is willing to support the Initiative and offered to include a proposal into the Annual Action Plan of the Environmental and Natural Resources Thematic Programme (AAP / ENRTP) for 2010/11.
- In **Finland** the Ministry of Environment submitted late 2008 a proposal of 250.000 Euro to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Initiative.
- In **France** it is discussed with the *Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle* in Paris how former French colonies in West and Central Africa can get access to the information

in the museum's collections as well as urgently required training in taxonomy. The Initiative envisages developing on that basis the Tai-National Park in Côte d'Ivoire as an example how ABS can contribute to sustainable financing for conservation.

- **Norway** intends to support the Initiative with a similar amount as the Netherlands. For that reason the Initiative was evaluated by NORAD during the 3rd Pan-African ABS Capacity Development Workshop in November 2008 in Antsiranana, Madagascar. Just a few days ago in March 2009 we have been informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Norway is committing 2,25 Mio EUR as support for the Initiative during the next three years.
- The **Swiss** State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is partnering with the Initiative with a focus on private sector involvement and the application of the ABS Management Tool. The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is funding the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for jointly organising multilateral negotiations skill trainings with the Initiative for African delegates prior to the next round of negotiations in April 2009 in Paris.
- **UNEP** offered to host a series of workshop in their premises in Nairobi, Kenya, in order to contribute to the implementation of the third goal of the CBD, Kenya. A first pan-African meeting on ABS and CEPA, developing strategies for better communicating ABS was held in March 2009, opened by UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. A further expert's workshop to work on the interface of ABS regulations and forest management especially focussing access rights and potential benefits for local communities will be held at UNEP in June 2009.

Based on continuing high demand for workshops and trainings, the positive feedback of workshop and training participants and relevant players at the international fora and specifically based on the Programme Document 2009 to 2011 DGIS informed the Initiative that it will allocate 2,5 Mio EUR for the period 01/2009 until 12/2011. Based on that commitment the workplan for 2009 was presented and agreed at the Steering Committee Meeting back-to-back with the 3rd Pan-African ABS Capacity Development Workshop in November 2008 in Antsiranana, Madagascar.

Based on the existing MoU between IEPF and GTZ IEPF is committed to contribute 100.000 EUR for 2009.

**Annex 1:
Workshop reviews**

Capacity Building and Briefing of African Delegates prior to the 6th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing

A workshop organized in cooperation with the African Union Commission, the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, and in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 18th to 19th January 2008, Geneva, Switzerland.

Workshop review

The workshop was based on the lessons from the Montréal workshop in October 2007. The Montreal workshop was the first of its kind which was organised by the Dutch German ABS Capacity Development Initiative where the objective was to provide capacity building and briefing to African delegates immediately prior to the negotiations meetings.

At the Montreal workshop delegates stated that they didn't need a general kind of capacity building that catered to the interests of the various stakeholders in the ABS process. Rather they wanted the capacity building that was specifically tailored for delegates who had a good grounding in ABS processes while at the same time were keen to understand and focus on the issues that were on the agenda of the meeting. The African delegates in Montreal also wanted the workshop to include a second day where they could have a co-ordination meeting amongst themselves and based on the insights gleaned from the first day of the workshop, develop a common African position for the meeting.

The Geneva workshop was designed with these recommendations in mind. The first day of the workshop focussed on the approaches to ABS from the different African regions in an attempt to develop a pan African understanding of ABS needs of the continent. The second part of the first day involved presentations and discussions on the various issues that were on the agenda for the ABSWG 6 meeting. The first day ended with a presentation by the EU representative on the position that EU would take at the meeting thereby providing the African delegates an preview of the position to expect when they begin negotiations.

The second day of the Geneva workshop focussed entirely on developing a common African position on the agenda items at the ABSWG 6 meeting. Recommendations by the various African stakeholders at the Nairobi meeting in December 2007 were seriously considered in the discussions amongst the delegates.

On the whole the Geneva workshop was a success because it responded to the real needs of the African delegates that were expressed in Montreal. It also provided further inputs into the planning of workshops for African delegates prior to negotiation meetings.

Meeting of African Leaders on Access and Benefit-Sharing in preparation for the High-level Segment of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

A workshop for African leaders to prepare for the high-level segment of COP 9 – with a special focus on ABS – organized in partnership with the Government of the Seychelles and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 10th to 12th April 2008, Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles.

Workshop Review

The workshop was very successful in terms of its objectives. It achieved excellent results in its efforts towards providing African ministers an insight into the history and processes of ABS. African focal points convinced their ministers to pledge their support for the position taken by African negotiators at the ABS negotiations in the Working Group. An unexpected advantage of the workshop was that it gave a chance for African focal points and ministers to agree to have a co-ordination meeting prior to the High Level Ministerial Segment Meeting to plan negotiation positions and strategy.

African Regional Preparatory Meeting prior to the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

A workshop organized in cooperation with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, and in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 17th to 18th May 2008, Bonn, Germany.

Workshop Review

The two day preparatory meeting model wherein the first day focuses on providing information and the second day is spent on African co-ordination was an outcome of the preparatory meeting prior to ABSWG 5 in Montreal. African delegates felt that such a model was ideal in that it would give them an opportunity to update themselves while at the same time allowing them time to use this information in developing common African positions.

The model was experimented with in Montreal prior to ABSWG 5 and then perfected in Geneva prior to ABSWG 6. African delegates came to expect it in Bonn prior to COP 9. The challenge however for a pre COP prep meeting is that the sheer range of issues before the COP and the fact that the pool of African delegates are both new and with diverse experiences. While at the ABSWGs the prep meetings focused on a stable group of delegates who had been following the issue over a few years and coordinated well as a team, a COP prep meeting presented the organizers and the participants where the diversity and size of the delegations were both a strength and a challenge.

The pre COP prep meeting provided valuable lessons for both participants and organizers who felt that the African Union must organize similar meetings prior to COPs rather than focus all discussions and co-ordination in a meeting on the eve of the COP. It is now up to the African Union to step up and meet the needs of the African delegates through regular co-ordination and briefing meetings in the run up to the COPs.

Negotiation Skills in the ABS Arena

Two trainings organized in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of Namibia, 17th to 19th September and 22nd to 24th September 2008, Windhoek, Namibia.

Negotiation Skills in the ABS Arena

Two trainings organized in partnership with the Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET), 8th to 10th October and 13th to 15th October 2008, Tunis, Tunisia.

Renforcement de capacités en matière d'accès aux ressources génétiques et de partage des avantages (APA)

A workshop organized in cooperation with the *Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature, des Bassins de Rétention et Lacs Artificiels*, 3rd to 7th November 2008, Dakar, Senegal.

Aperçu du programme

Les éléments suivants seront abordés lors de l'atelier:

Expériences nationales /sortie en terrain

Une excursion est prévue pour visiter un cas de bio-prospection local afin de mettre en contexte les sujets qui seront abordés dans le cadre de l'atelier. Les informations données par, et discussions avec, les représentants de collecteurs, les collectivités locales, les chercheurs/scientifiques, les expor-

tateurs et autres permettront d'illustrer la complexité du sujet et de sensibiliser les participants quant aux besoins pratiques des différentes parties prenantes. Au-delà, les participants seront invités à présenter des expériences nationales en matière de bio-prospection afin d'établir une base compréhensive de pratiques exemplaires.

Négociations du régime international: revue et préparation

Les résultats pertinents de la 9^{ème} réunion de la Conférence des Parties de la Convention sur la diversité biologique seront présentés et discutés. Sur la base des échanges d'information concernant le cadre réglementaire et les cas de bio-prospection, le débat visera à définir des priorités pour les sous-régions vis-à-vis de la conformité et des autres "concepts". Ces priorités seront transmises à l'atelier global qui se tiendra en novembre à Madagascar afin que celles-ci puissent contribuer à l'élaboration d'une position commune du groupe africain pendant la septième réunion du groupe de travail spécial à composition non limitée sur l'APA qui aura lieu dans le courant du premier trimestre de 2009.

Les participants analyseront également l'ébauche du texte opératif sur les éléments majeurs de l'annexe du texte de Genève. Le texte opératif sera ensuite soumis par le groupe Africain au secrétariat de la CDB en marge de la 7^{ème} réunion du groupe de travail spécial à composition non limitée sur l'APA.

Communication, éducation et sensibilisation du public

Les participants de l'atelier de Dakar seront invités à se pencher sur la question de savoir si la communication, l'éducation et la sensibilisation du public (CESP) peuvent être des outils clés pour renforcer les capacités des différents acteurs sur l'APA. Des approches CESP visant l'APA seront élaborées afin de permettre la prise d'initiatives dans ce domaine.

3rd Pan-African ABS Capacity Development Workshop

A workshop hosted by the *Ministère de l'Environnement des Eaux et Forêts et du Tourisme*, 24th to 28th November 2008, Antsiranana (Diego Suarez), Madagascar.

Programme Overview

The workshop consisted of the following elements of work:

Towards best practices for ABS

Shedding light into bioprospecting experiences is essential to come to practical and realistic solutions for regulating and implementing ABS highlighting approaches ensuring compliance by users of genetic resources. A field visit and discussion with stakeholders involved in the bioprospecting activities of the International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG) in Northern Madagascar will provide insights and first hand experiences in a long-term programme aiming to link drug discovery, biodiversity research, conservation and development. For an overview on ICBG's activities in Madagascar see www.wlbcenter.org/icbg.htm.

Specific tools for the management of the negotiation process of bioprospecting agreements and for ABS related communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) were introduced and discussed.

Linking up to the negotiation of the International ABS Regime

The agenda for the negotiation of the International ABS regime will be presented. Building on the experiences in the presented bioprospecting cases, recommendations for African positions on the agenda items "compliance" and "concepts" will be formulated and compared against first drafts of operational text for these agenda items.

The ABS Africa Initiative: review of the first phase and the way forward

The expected high-intensity roadmap for the negotiation of the International ABS Regime provides guidance for the implementation of the Initiative for the coming two years. Taking stock of the achievements so far provided the basis for the discussion of the roadmap until COP 10.