

TRAINING COURSE TO BUILD AFRICAN CAPACITY IN ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

A Short Course Presented

by the Environmental Evaluation Unit, University of Cape Town
and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa

**The Graduate School of Business,
V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa
25-29 January 2010**



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Programme Implementing
the Biodiversity Convention



commissioned by

Federal Ministry
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WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR A COURSE ABOUT ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING?



The use of genetic resources and the sharing of benefits arising from this use have received considerable attention over the past two decades. Not only is there increasing recognition of the interdependencies of countries on the world's genetic resources, but so too is there greater awareness of the potential benefits that arise from the use of these resources for poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation, technology transfer, and the development of research and scientific capacity. The development of an international access and benefit-sharing (ABS) regime under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has given impetus to this interest, and, combined with a proliferation of related national laws and policies, has highlighted the considerable capacity constraints that exist in ABS implementation. Such constraints are well recognized by parties to the CBD, who in 2004 adopted an Action Plan on Capacity Building for Access and Benefit Sharing, with the key objective "to facilitate and support the development and strengthening of capacities of individuals, institutions and communities for the effective implementation of the provisions of the CBD relating to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing..." (Decision VII/19F).

Numerous activities have been initiated to respond to this challenge, intending to lead to an increase in ABS knowledge

and capacity. Nonetheless, a number of constraints remain. Many of these are linked to the fact that ABS – and indeed the CBD – bring together a complex mix of scientific, conservation, trade and legal elements that touch on a wide range of controversial and difficult issues, from the implications of new biotechnologies through to the protection of traditional knowledge, the patenting of life, and broader concerns about globalization and corporate control over food supply and healthcare. Such complexities present particular challenges for capacity building, and require solutions that are cross-sectoral in nature, wide-ranging in scope and that bring together a range of diverse understandings and stakeholders.

African countries face particularly acute capacity constraints in implementing ABS at the national and regional level. On the one hand, many have very diverse and unique biological resources and rich repositories of traditional knowledge, which attract high levels of bioprospecting. On the other, most African countries have spiraling levels of poverty, massive development needs and limited technical capacity to deal with these problems. Regulating and managing ABS under such circumstances is clearly a substantial challenge.



THE TRAINING

To help overcome such constraints a one-week training course, tailored for African participants, will be held from 25-29 January 2010 at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business, located at the Breakwater Lodge in the heart of Cape Town's Victoria & Alfred Waterfront development. The course will be hosted by the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit, in collaboration with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa.

All delegates will be accommodated at the Protea Hotel Breakwater Lodge. Once a 19th Century prison, the Hotel today provides comfortable hotel accommodation in a spectacular setting that looks over Table Bay and up onto Table Mountain.

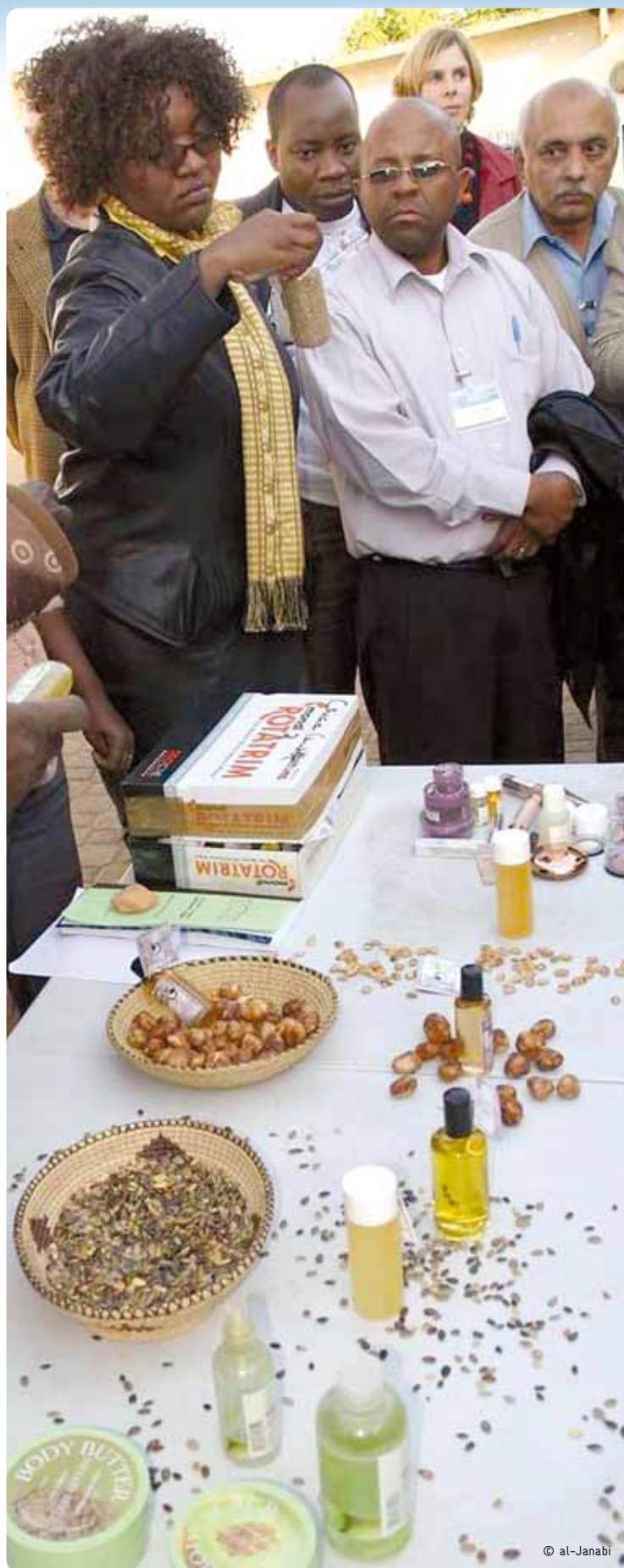
The training will comprise a mix of lectures, group work and discussion, role-playing exercises, and practical sessions. Field-work will complement the theoretical part of the programme.

LEADING THINKERS AND PRACTITIONERS WILL PRESENT ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS INCLUDING:

- Introductory sessions on ABS concepts and principles
- International policy and legal frameworks for ABS
- Developing and implementing national laws and policies for ABS
- ABS tools – e.g. permits, contracts, material transfer agreements, benefit-sharing agreements
- Industry trends in ABS
- Negotiating for ABS agreements
- Roles of different stakeholders
- Bioprospecting and biotrade
- Prior informed consent and benefit sharing
- Traditional knowledge issues
- Intellectual property rights

AFTER THE TRAINING IT IS EXPECTED THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Have a good understanding of the concepts and principles underpinning ABS;
- Have an improved understanding of the ways in which biodiversity is used by different commercial sectors;
- Have knowledge of the variety of tools available to manage and regulate ABS, and ways in which ABS agreements, policies and laws can be developed, negotiated and implemented;
- Be familiar with the key debates in ABS and the positions adopted by different stakeholders;
- Be in a better position to coordinate ABS activities and participate in national, regional, and international networks.



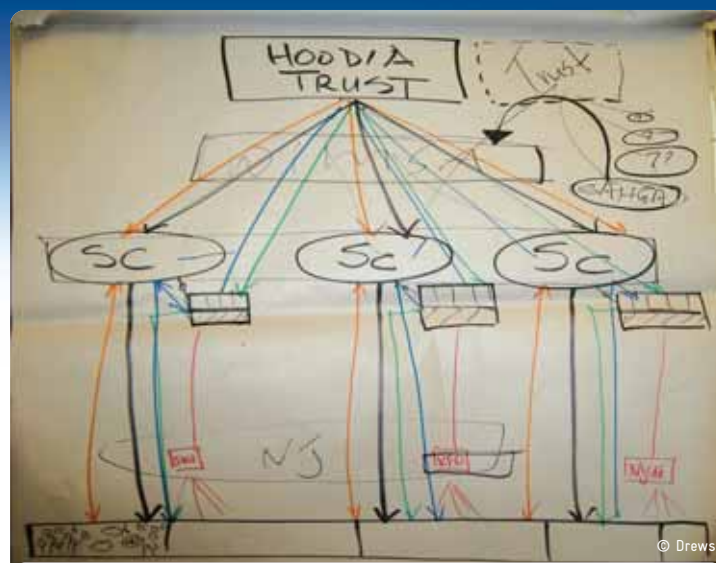
WHO CAN ATTEND AND WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?

Forty participants will be selected to participate in the course, drawn from countries in the SADC region (Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), and from a variety of sectors and professions.

Minimum requirements for participation are:

- An interest or involvement in the SADC region,
- at least three years of experience in a relevant field,
- an ability to take the training outcomes forward in a concrete way, and
- competence in English.

All sectors and professions are welcome to apply. Anticipated participants include policy makers, parliamentarians, legal advisors and legislators, and government officials from environmental, agriculture and trade departments, international and national research institutions, those involved in the SADC biodiversity programme, the private sector, NGOs and CBOs. However, if the course is over-subscribed the organisers will select applicants to ensure an appropriate balance. Junior, senior and mid-career professionals who wish to improve their basic understanding of ABS and the topics indicated are welcome to apply.



WHAT WILL THE COURSE COST?

Training fees, accommodation, breakfast and lunch will be covered by the ABS Capacity Building Initiative for Africa. However, participants are urged to seek support to cover their travel costs, additional meals, and incidental expenses. Limited support is available for those unable to meet these expenses and participants should write a motivating letter to the organizers in such cases.

WHERE/WHEN DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

The Graduate School of Business,
V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa
25-29 January 2010

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Simply fill in the online application form at www.eeu.uct.ac.za or write to Fahdelah.Hartley@uct.ac.za to send you the form.

The closing date for applications is **31 August 2009**. Applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application by 30 September 2009.

FURTHER QUERIES?

Please contact
Dr Rachel Wynberg: rachel@iafrica.com or
Dr Andreas Drews: andreas.drews@gtz.de

