



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ABS in Guyana

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What is Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS)?

Access and benefit-sharing refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how users and providers reach an agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that might result from their use.

International Obligations for Guyana

- ◎ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD);
 - Signatory to the Convention in 1992; and
 - Ratified in 1994.

Objectives of the CBD

- ◎ Conservation of Biological Diversity / Biodiversity
- ◎ Sustainable use of its components; and
- ◎ **The fair and equitable sharing of benefit arising from the utilisation of genetic resources.**

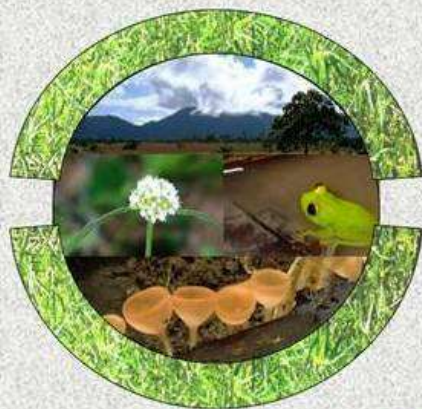
National Framework for ABS

- ◎ **Constitution:** Article 2:36: In the interest of the present and future generations, the state will protect rational use of its fauna and flora, and will take all appropriate measures to conserve and improve the environment.
- ◎ **EP Act 1996 (Establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency):** With regards to ABS, enacted as the main legislative vehicle to provide for:
 - The management, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment; and
 - The sustainable use of natural resources.

National Framework for ABS cont'd

- ◎ National Policy on ABS, 2008.
- ◎ Draft ABS Regulations made under the EP Act.
 - Sole Sourcing of Consultant
 - Finalization of ABS Regs
- ◎ Biodiversity Research Guidelines.

National Policy on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization



Environmental Protection Agency



United Nations Development Programme

GUIDELINES FOR BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH

The Guidelines:

I. The research team must submit two completed copies of the application form, Form B-001, to the Secretariat of the NBC three (3) months prior to the scheduled commencement of the research project/programme. Applications will be processed within one month of receipt.

The application form will require, *inter alia*, the following information:

- (1) a statement of the objectives – why the research is to be conducted in Guyana and whether it is for academic or commercial purposes;
- (2) the proposed duration and site(s) of the research;
- (3) the methodology through which the research objectives will be achieved;
- (4) the methodology for collecting animal specimens if the collection of such is to be made;
- (5) the source of funding and local assets in Guyana;
- (6) the source of information regarding proposed project programme;
- (7) the composition of the Research Team and brief Curriculum Vitae of each member;
- (8) a recommendation from a recognized Institution/Body/Society (for individuals only);
- (9) a statement of actual or proposed linkages with local institutions;
- (10) a brief description of what will source to Guyana from the research;
- (11) a list of all materials to be collected and their immediate, intermediate and final destinations;
- (12) a brief description of the environmental impact of such research;
- (13) disclosure of any affiliations with other institutions, private or public entities on whose behalf, or in collaboration with whom the research is being conducted.

II. The Research Team must agree to the following:

Permits and Agreements:

- (1) that they will obtain and sign an Academic or Commercial Research Agreement with the Government of Guyana prior to commencing their research (which includes gathering biological and genetic material as well as ethno-biological knowledge) and in the event the research is being conducted on behalf of or in collaboration with another entity, that they will obtain the signature of this entity in the Research Agreement. Further, that they will continue to be bound by the terms of Agreement until relevant from them by the Government of Guyana except in respect of the right to conduct research in Guyana, which shall have a agreed time frame, specified in the Agreement.

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ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING OUT OF THEIR USE

DRAFT REGULATIONS

MADE UNDER

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1996

(No. 11 of 1996)

Institutional Arrangement for ABS

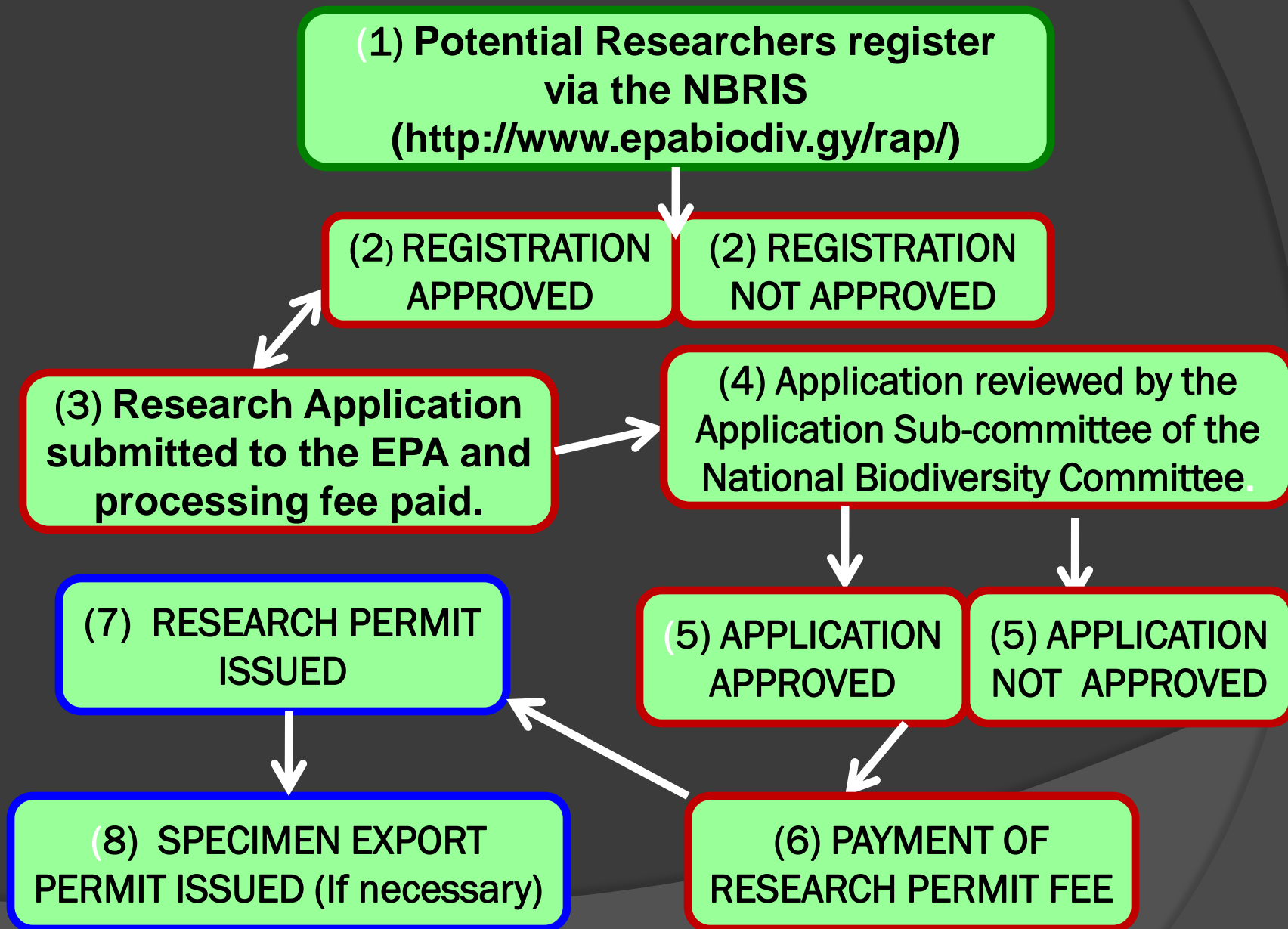
ABS National Authority/Focal Point –

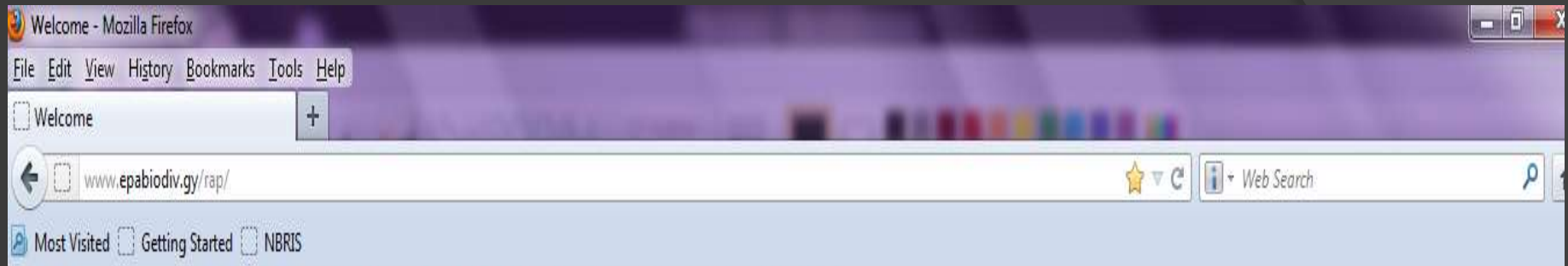
- The Environmental Protection Agency

other Stakeholders

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- Protected Areas Commission
- Iwokrama
- Conservation International
- National Biodiversity Committee-Applications Subcommittee
- Indigenous Peoples Commission

Overview of the Research Process





Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana

Natural Resource Management Division

Biodiversity Research – Application Process

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Email: guyanaabs@epaguyana.org

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Researcher

- Registration

Welcome, to the Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resource Management Division – Biodiversity Research Site.

At this site, interested persons can register as Biodiversity Researchers in Guyana. In doing so, the Researcher can apply to conduct research and use the site to facilitate this process.

This site provides a forum to allow members of the Research Application Committee to review applications and to offer comments/recommendations.

Please use the available commands on the left to navigate further in this site.

Overview Cont'd

- All dead and preserved specimens require a Permit from the EPA for removal/export from Guyana;
- All live specimens require a Permit from the Wildlife Management Authority (WMA) for removal from Guyana; and
- Both Permits (EPA and WMA) are Export Permit.

Research and Export Permits

◎ Research Permit

- Signed by both parties; EPA and Researcher;
- Gold Seal of the EPA attached; and
- Guidelines for Biodiversity Research in Guyana attached.

◎ Export Permit

- Signed by both parties; EPA, and the Exporter;
- Complete list of the specimens to be exported (including the total number of specimens), the research permit under which the specimens were collected;
- *Regular* Seal of the EPA attached; and
- Verification Report to the Export Permit attached and sealed by the EPA.

Contact Information

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