

THE ABS
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



L'INITIATIVE DE
RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES
POUR L'APA

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Dr. Hartmut Meyer

Transforming Knowledge into Wealth

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DANISH MINISTRY
OF THE ENVIRONMENT



implemented by

giz

Programme implementing
the Biodiversity Convention



The ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Who are?

1. A multi-donor initiative funded by
 - Governments of Germany, Denmark, and Norway
 - The EU-ACP Cooperation
 - Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
2. Implemented by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through a
 - secretariat (13 persons based in Germany) and a
 - world-wide team with linkages to various institutions (10+ consultants)



The ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Since when are we working?

1. The Initiative was funded in 2005 on the request of the African Group at the ABS negotiations
2. Many of our experts are engaged in the ABS debates since the 1990s resp. since 2004 after CBD mandate to negotiate the Nagoya Protocol

Where are we working?

1. Initial focus and main current activities are in Africa including the African Union Commission
2. Expansion to the Caribbean and Pacific region including CARICOM and South Pacific Community /South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme



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What are our objectives?

1. **ACP countries have ratified / accessed the Nagoya Protocol** and benefit after its entry into force from its compliance mechanisms at the international as well as national levels
2. Enabling transparent and accountable national **ABS policies; regulatory frameworks** are developed and implemented which allow stakeholders of Africa and ACP countries to enter into equitable ABS partnerships with the research community and the private sector.



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What are our objectives?

3. Valuation of genetic resources in provider countries is improved and **functioning ABS agreements** contribute to biodiversity conservation and livelihoods of rural populations.
4. National, bilateral and international **partners are supporting ABS implementation** at national and (sub-)regional level.
5. Approaches for implementing the Nagoya Protocol are **regionally coordinated and harmonized** with other processes and fora relevant to ABS in order to increase transboundary cooperation and to address legal gaps.

Outlook for 2014



ABS Initiative

1. General satisfaction with the development of activities since 2012
2. New co-operations envisaged in 2014
 - The Bahamas
 - St. Lucia
 - Dominican Republic
3. Establishing marine bioprospection as regional topic in cooperation with research institutions and corporations utilising Caribbean genetic resources
4. 3rd Caribbean ABS Workshop planned for Nov 2014