



THE **ABS**
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



L'INITIATIVE DE
RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES
POUR L'**APA**

8th Pan African ABS Workshop

10th to 14th March 2014 Cotonou, Benin

Hosted by the Ministère de l'Environnement Chargé de la
Gestion des Changements Climatiques, du Reboisement
et de la Protection des Ressources Naturelles et
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Background

Since 2006, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative) has convened seven Pan-African workshops, as well as numerous training courses and multi-stakeholders workshops with a regional or issue-based focus, playing a critical role in building capacity on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) issues in Africa. Since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Utilisation (Nagoya Protocol) in 2010, the ABS Initiative has increased its support for national implementation. This includes support for the establishment of policy, institutional and legal frameworks and also towards specific ABS compliant value chains. At the regional level, the ABS Initiative is supporting the process of development and validation of the African Union Guidelines for a Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa. Another highly time sensitive field of action is the support towards ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. Fifty ratifications are needed for the Protocol to enter into force, possibly in time for the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to be held in South Korea in October 2014. The eighth edition of the Pan-African ABS Workshop therefore took place at critical juncture in the ABS international debate and the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. It was hosted by Benin, a long standing partner and a fervent participant and supporter of the ABS Initiative since its inception.

Among the key challenges in the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, a recurring question is how to develop effective and context specific ABS strategies that enable the best possible valorisation of the available genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, correspond to the national policy framework and development goals while taking into account the views of all relevant stakeholder groups.

Objectives

Based on the above, the 8th Pan African ABS Workshop was designed around the theme of valorisation with the objectives to:

- Update participants on international, national and regional processes related to ABS, including the current draft of the African Union Guidelines for a Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (AU Guidelines);
- Discuss and exchange practical experiences on the elaboration of national ABS strategies, including investment and benefit-sharing policies for the strategic valorisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge;
- Inform about the realities of research and development (R&D) based on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in various sectors, including through a local case study and fieldtrip;
- Provide space for an informed discussion on basic, academic, commercial research and development approaches with respect to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as well as the implications for ABS policies and regulations; and
- Present and provide feedback opportunity on the future modalities for support for national ABS implementation by the ABS Initiative.

In addition, participants were able to learn about and discuss several ABS related issues during an entire day devoted to thematic sessions.



The workshop also provided an opportunity for African Negotiators to coordinate and discuss the preparation for COP 12 to the CBD and possibly for the first Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to the Nagoya Protocol to be held in South Korea in October 2014.

Participants

As in previous years, the 8th Pan-African ABS Workshop aimed to develop capacity by bringing together representatives of ABS National Focal Points, National Competent Authorities, Indigenous and Local Communities (ILCs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutions as well as representatives of the private sector involved in biotrade and bioprospecting and participating donor countries while providing a forum for the exchange of experiences and lesson learnt in different countries.



Outcomes

The 8th Pan African ABS Workshop gathered more than 96 participants from 42 countries, including 37 African countries, to discuss and exchange experiences about valorisation approaches of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Over the five day workshop, participants were updated on the latest developments relating to international processes relevant to the further advancement of the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and discussed the different options for the elaboration of national valorisation strategies and sustainable value chains using ABS and the Nagoya Protocol as instruments to foster innovation and economic development. The field trip to Porto Novo with the successive visits of the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy, the National Garden of Medicinal Plants and the International Research Centre on Traditional Medicine, which combines the practice of traditional and modern medicine, provided a very informative example of how North-South cooperation can work to create innovation based on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge even in the absence of a Nagoya Protocol compliant regulatory framework.

Constructive exchanges, group reflections and activities provided the participants with:

- A better understanding of the synergies between the different international and regional processes relevant to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the valorisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the development of sustainable ABS value chains, in particular: the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources (ICG) within the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and European Union Draft Regulation on ABS (EU Regulation).
- The latest developments on the current draft of the AU Guidelines as well as a detailed report on the position of the African Group on substantial items of the Agenda of the Third Meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP-3);
- A better understanding of the available options for the elaboration of national ABS strategies and how, if well-implemented, such strategies can contribute to innovation through the strategic valorisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge;
- A better understanding of key elements to consider when negotiating ABS contracts in terms of procedure and content;
- An improved understanding of the realities of R&D based on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in various sectors in order to better negotiate Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), benefit-sharing and guide policy makers in the establishment of effective national ABS systems;
- An enhanced understanding of the meaning of 'utilisation of genetic resources' and a better appreciation of approaches and criteria enabling Competent National Authorities to decide which kind of research on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge would trigger Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and MAT for access as well as qualify for simplified access measures;
- Useful advices on how to use the ABS Communication, Education and Public Participation (CEPA) Guide to develop strategic communication approaches in order to improve and extend cooperation with relevant ABS stakeholders, and
- Comprehensive information on the possible ways of documenting traditional knowledge in the context of ABS.



The 8th Pan African ABS workshop also provided participants with an opportunity to identify key areas and future modalities for support to advance national ABS implementation by the ABS Initiative.



Process

Opening Ceremony

The participants of the 8th Pan African ABS Workshop were welcomed by:

- Theophile Kakpo, Directeur Général des Forêts et des Ressources Naturelles du Bénin ;
- Suhel al-Janabi, Co-Manager of the ABS Initiative;
- Bente Herstad, Policy Director, Department for Climate, Energy and Environment of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Rajae Chafil, Spécialiste de Programme Négociations Internationales sur l'Environnement et le Développement Durable, Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement ;
- Hans Jörg Neumann, German Ambassador to Benin; and
- Raphaël Edou, Ministre de l'Environnement Chargé de la Gestion des Changements Climatiques, du Reboisement et de la Protection des Ressources Naturelles et Forestières

Introduction and Update

ABS Initiative: Update

From Phalaborwa to Cotonou

This first presentation offered a comprehensive overview of the ABS Initiative's work and related activities throughout 2013. Building on previous achievements and exploring new approaches, the ABS Initiative:

- Helped strengthening the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol through direct support to selected countries and initiating dialogues between different countries on the practical ways forward for the implementation of the Protocol;
- Strengthened stakeholders' involvement by managing multi-stakeholder processes and providing continued support to ILCs by means of workshops and training on relevant themes;
- Provided support to the establishment of sustainable value chains by increasing its work with industries and organising business dialogues between relevant stakeholders. This included not only initiating projects on value chain development with the private sector, but also carrying on research studies on the business potential of genetic resources and building ABS capacity with the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) and PhytoTrade members in Southern Africa;
- Amplified ABS processes by integrating ABS in bilateral development programmes, strengthening existing collaborations and developing new partnerships;
- Provided support to regional coordination processes such as the AU Guidelines and the development of ABS best practices;
- Facilitated regional capacity development through knowledge exchange workshops on traditional knowledge documentation, training courses on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and research study on the sources of traditional knowledge in Africa; and
- Expanded its regional scope of work to the Caribbean and Pacific Regions.



Results of the Evaluation of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative

The presentation provided a summary of the findings of an external evaluation on the performance of the ABS Initiative's 2012-2015 Programme Phase. Lessons drawn from these findings will be used for the conceptualisation and management of the Initiative's next programme phase. The results show that the programme of work of the ABS Initiative is highly relevant and effective. Yet, the successful implementation of sustainable ABS compliant value chains is still to be proven. Different areas of work could be improved so as to develop concrete ABS cases. For example, the report recommended placing a stronger focus on national support for the ratification and the domestication of the Nagoya Protocol as well as on supporting value chain development and implementation. The results also revealed that it was still too early to fully assess the sustainability of the impacts of the ABS Initiative's programme of work. Additionally, the report emphasised that the effectiveness of the ABS Initiative could be improved by adjusting further its capacity development approach through the systematic qualification of regional multipliers such as trainers and consultants and the use of virtual learning tools and exchanges. The formation of interdisciplinary multi-stakeholder groups on ABS at national level and a stronger focus on improving the institutionalisation of knowledge was strongly recommended in order to build and consolidate a broader expertise on ABS and knowledge dissemination in targeted countries and regions.

International Processes: Update

Outcomes of the Third Meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol: An African Perspective

The presentation provided a summary of the outcomes of the ICNP-3 which took place from 24th to 28th February 2014 in Pyeong Chang, Republic of South Korea. Participants were informed that the African Group provided a clear and common position on each item of the agenda of the ICNP 3. The presentation particularly focussed on the African Group's position on five substantial items: the modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10); the modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing House (Article 14 (4)); the capacity development needs and related financial needs (Article 22); the compliance procedures and the establishment of a compliance committee (Article 30); the monitoring and reporting obligations/requirements (Articles 19 & 20).

The Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Intellectual Property Organisation: A brief Update on Current Processes Relevant to the Further and Successful Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The first presentation of this short session reported on the major outcomes of the 5th Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA and stressed the importance of implementing the Nagoya Protocol in a way that is consistent with and mutually supportive of the Treaty. It emphasised the fact that the concept of an international ABS regime is broader than the Nagoya Protocol or the Treaty individually. Any successful implementation of the Nagoya Protocol will therefore require close cooperation and coordination with the ITPGRFA. This means clarifying respective legal obligations, developing concrete interfaces between the two processes and establishing an institutional collaboration to structure those interfaces.

The second presentation offered a brief update on the text-based negotiations related to the international legal instrument(s) on the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions that are taking place under the auspices of the IGC at WIPO. Participants were informed that the main issues deliberated upon at this stage of the process were (i) preventing the misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and erroneously granted patents, (ii) ensuring compliance with ABS framework, (iii) defining traditional knowledge and (iv) the objectives of the instrument(s).



Plenary Discussion Summary

Participants emphasised the need to encourage ABS and FAO/ITPGRFA focal points to collaborate, especially with regard to cross-cutting issues such as IPRs and the protection of traditional knowledge. Exploring how to harmonise the two instruments was seen as essential. Other participants highlighted the importance to also harmonise ABS and WIPO processes.

Regional Processes: Update

European Union: Policy Update

The presentation provided a brief overview of the EU Draft Regulation on ABS soon to be adopted by EU Member States while critically reviewing a selection of articles and highlighting issues for considerations. Participants were informed that the EU Draft Regulation was essentially focussing on compliance measures for users of genetic resources within the Union. Their attention was particularly drawn to: (i) the guiding principle contained in paragraph 8 of the preamble and Article 4 which both stress the importance of implementing ABS legislation in provider countries; (ii) Article 2, which refers to the scope of the EU Draft Regulation as it does not apply to genetic resources and to traditional knowledge accessed before the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and (iii) the due diligence approach to compliance advocated by the EU Draft regulation which establishes regular compliance checks and imposes compliance obligations on the users of genetic resources.

African Union: Technical Update

This presentation gave a political and technical update on the development of the AU Guidelines. The participants were provided with a brief overview of the background and key milestones of the development process of the guidelines from the identification of the lack of a regional tool that could facilitate the harmonisation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa in 2011 to the adoption of the African Ministerial Conference in the Environment (AMCEN) report and its recommendations on the development of AU guidelines by the African Union Assembly of Heads of States and Government (AU Assembly) in January 2013. The draft AU Guidelines, developed with the support of the ABS Initiative, consists of two parts. The first part deals with coordination principles and policy guidance and proposes a harmonised regional standard for ABS national implementation. The second part is a step-by-step guide and hands-on tool for the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Both parts of the AU Guidelines were thoroughly reviewed in December 2013 by a group of key stakeholders and in January 2014 by a group of experts. Further contributions on the draft guidelines will also be solicited from Competent National Authorities. A validation workshop is planned in July 2014 for a final review of the draft guidelines. This course of action is aimed at strengthening the ownership of the process and the endorsement of the AU Guidelines by African States. It is anticipated that the draft AU Guidelines will be adopted by AMCEN in September 2014 and further endorsed by the AU Assembly in 2015.

Plenary Discussion Summary

The plenary discussion focussed on the impacts of the EU Regulation on African provider countries as well as its relationship with the incoming AU Guidelines. The following is a summary of the points discussed by the plenary:

- The AU Guidelines are not an answer to the EU Regulation. However, they need to take into account the direction the EU Regulation has taken. It is advised that African countries consider elaborating on the EU Regulation in their national legislation.
- Because the EU Regulation excludes new uses from previous access, the AU Guidelines must give some consideration to resources historically taken by European countries from African



provider countries so that new uses cannot occur without a due legal process. While it is important to keep the channel of cooperation between user countries in the EU and provider countries in Africa opened, it was suggested to blacklist any country that conducts new uses from previous access without establishing a PIC and MAT.

- The retroactivity is a very complex issue. Access before the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol is a political question and will therefore be dealt with at the Meeting of the Parties after the entry into force of the Protocol.
- The EU Member States have to implement the EU Regulation. Compliance and penalty systems may be very different from one country to another. It will therefore take time for the EU Member States to ratify the Nagoya Protocol. As a result, it is unlikely that the European provisions will be in force before the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol. This should encourage African countries to ratify the Protocol as soon as possible to be part of the negotiations at the first Conference of the Parties.
- Each country may address ABS related concerns, including traditional knowledge, differently in their national legislation. This highlights the importance of contract design and contract negotiation as each country will have to respect other countries' national legislation.

Developing ABS Strategies and Policies: Input and Experiences

Conceptual Framework

Strategy Processes and Policy Choices for ABS

The presentation looked at the concept of valorisation, its meaning and usefulness in the context of ABS. It also looked at how developing sustainable valorisation strategies and building ABS compliant value chains in provider countries. The presentation emphasised that valorisation is not in conflict with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Rather, it is a key factor to unlocking the value of biodiversity and a key driver to achieve sustainability. National biodiversity endowment, national scientific, industrial and commercial capacity as well as national economic policies will influence the development of a national valorisation strategy. Foreign direct investment and business start-up policies and regulations are other factors that can influence a valorisation strategy. A valorisation strategy therefore aims at defining priorities that help turn the economic potential of ABS into actual value and development opportunities. The following seven steps are advocated to develop a comprehensive valorisation strategy:

- Stock-taking and assessment;
- National and local participatory visioning exercise with stakeholders;
- Identification of entry points;
- Assessment of available resources (natural, human, scientific and technological);
- External inputs and/or partnerships required – the importance of negotiating MAT;
- Turning the strategy into an action plan; and
- Monitoring, evaluation and re-planning when needed.

More details on how to develop a sustainable valorisation strategy and add value to the biodiversity of a country can be found below in the summary of the thematic session entitled “Valorisation Strategies: Steps to Take in Developing Valorisation Strategies.”



Plenary Discussion Summary

Participants debated on the meaning and different aspects of the concept of valorisation in the context of ABS. The discussion revealed that the term valorisation seemed to mean different things to different people. While some participants argued that in this context only R&D deals with valorisation, others insisted that there was a lot more to valorisation than just R&D. According to this viewpoint, it is essential to consider all aspects of the value chain when developing a valorisation strategy, including whether innovation was based on traditional knowledge. Hence, the scientific, commercial and spiritual value as well as the value of traditional knowledge must be carefully balanced. Yet, traditional knowledge holders receive little benefits. It is therefore important to understand how value chains work and where the value is added. This, in turn, will also help to balance costs incurred in developing such a value chain. Finally, participants emphasised the importance to create an enabling environment that will facilitate information exchange among the wide range of actors involved (i.e. create a multiplier effect) in the development of the valorisation strategy. They all agreed that National ABS Focal Points have an important role to play in this regard.

National Experiences

The presentation elaborated on the different phases of the development process of Benin's national strategy on ABS while highlighting how the participatory approach adopted allowed all the actors involved in ABS related activities to engage in the formulation of the strategy. Some strategic choices are still unsettled. For example, the strategic options for the legal and regulatory framework, the permit system, the protection of traditional knowledge, the valorisation approach, the procedure for non-commercial research and the role of the state in contract negotiations are still being discussed. A consultation workshop on the strategic options is to be organised. The draft strategy will then be revised, finalised and validated.

Plenary Discussion Summary

Participants were informed that there was not currently any law addressing the Bangui Agreements with respect to the protection of traditional knowledge in Benin. However, ILCs and traditional knowledge holders are actively involved in the ABS strategy development process and their contributions are taken into account as much as any other stakeholders' views or inputs. There is indeed a high level of collaboration between traditional leaders and the government in relation to the ABS national process. All existing laws related to ABS have been identified to provide support to the national process. Transitional measures are therefore taken through these laws until the national ABS regime is in place.

The Biodiversity Economy Strategy of South Africa

The presentation provided a preview of the future South African National Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy (NBEDS) currently being developed under the lead of the Department of Environmental Affairs and in synergy with the Bio-Economy Strategy launched by the Department of Science and Technology in January 2014. Complementing the Bio-Economy Strategy, the NBEDS will provide an implementation framework to achieve optimum economic benefits – direct, indirect and induced, from the commercialisation of South African biodiversity. This includes, among others, the development of valorisation strategies in the context of ABS, the determination and development of value chains and the establishment of a National Compound Library.

Plenary Discussion Summary

In the discussion that followed, participants were informed that the National Compound Library will be linked to the South African National Recordal System (NRS) developed by the Department of Science and Technology. The NRS aims to document, preserve, protect and promote South Africa's



wealth of indigenous knowledge/traditional knowledge for the benefits of the communities. To strengthen regional coordination, South Africa, which has launched its first Biodiversity Economy Indaba in November 2013, plans to invite its neighbouring countries to participate in the next edition of this forum to exchange information and best practices. The discussion also highlighted that the South African legislation differentiates between bioprospecting and biotrade by establishing different phases that distinguish non-commercial research from commercial research. Should non-commercial researches progress into commercialisation; users have to re-submit a permit application and address the necessary requirements. South Africa's primary and secondary legislation on ABS are currently being revised to be aligned with the Nagoya Protocol.

Introduction to the Field Trip

The Laboratory of Pharmacognosy and the Catholic University of Leuven

This presentation gave a brief background on the research collaboration on the utilisation of traditional medicinal plants between the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy in Porto Novo, Benin and the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. The main objective of this collaboration is to research the different usages of traditional drugs with the view to improve public health by valorising traditional pharmacopeia and confirming the virtues of medicinal plants while at the same time strengthening research capacity and training researchers in Pharmacognosy. The presentation highlighted the importance of identifying various dangerous plants that are traditionally used from plants people can use as inexpensive treatment/prescription in order to improve public health. This collaboration covers three levels: the local level which represents traditional healer groups and traditional healer associations; the national level which refers to the research on active components done by the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy and the international level referring to the support provided by the Catholic University of Leuven. This support can take different forms such as financial assistance, technical support, technology transfer and patenting assistance where relevant. Although this collaboration started before the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, its contractual arrangements integrate ABS related changes in a systematic way. No research outcomes have been patented as yet but non-commercial benefits are noticeable. Both institutions are waiting for Benin to pass a national legislation on ABS. With the identification of active molecules based on traditional Pharmacognosy, there is an evolution towards valorisation. However, some questions still need to be addressed. These are for example, what are the policies in both countries dealing with valorisation and how, from a legal point of view, can this collaboration move to the marketing and commercialisation phases?

African Group Coordination

A closed coordination meeting of the African Group took place providing an opportunity for African Negotiators to coordinate and discuss the preparation for COP 12 to the CBD and possibly for MOP1 to the Nagoya Protocol to be held in South Korea in October 2014.



Field Trip: The Laboratory of Pharmacognosy in Porto Novo and its Research Collaboration with the University of Louvain, Belgium on Traditional Medicinal Plants

Site Visits

The field trip consisted of three consecutive site visits and was concluded by a panel and plenary discussions. The first site visited, the International Research Centre on Traditional Medicine, which consisted of the Hwlanganton Medical Clinic, the Research Institute in Pharmacopoeia and Ancestral Medicine and the “Musée de la Feuille,” provided the participants with the opportunity to observe the practice and coexistence of traditional medicine and modern medicine. The centre is also a teaching facility on traditional medicine and operates with the aim to provide affordable health care support to people while at the same time safeguarding the cultural heritage related to the use of medicinal plants. Participants then visited the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy in Porto Novo and explored the various and practical aspects of the research collaboration between the Laboratory and the Catholic University of Leuven. This site visit provided the participants with additional information and technical demonstration of the work that the laboratory is doing with regard to the study on the safety of medicinal plants used in traditional medicine and why this work was important in terms of public health. The last visit took the participants to the National Medicinal Plant Garden adjacent to the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy where they were introduced to a wide range of medicinal plants growing in similar conditions as in the wild and to their medicinal virtues.

Panel Discussion Summary

Exploring further the collaboration between the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy and the Catholic University of Leuven, participants discussed the University’s commitment to advance research and innovation that can benefit society. The University’s valorisation strategy consisted in four distinct phases. The first phase entails looking for finance or funding. The second phase focusses on scouting for new leads. This implies visiting laboratories, universities or research institutions, identifying potential researches and doing some awareness-raising about IPRs among scientists. The third phase also called the maturation phase deals with project development and related activities. This is the stage where the governance and management of a project is established and contracts developed with respect to ABS (where relevant), including parity in IPRs. Contracts can be reviewed to integrate ABS related changes. For example, the percentage of royalties can be reviewed according to changes in ABS national legislation. A return for the investors must also be negotiated at this stage. It is also important that the recipient is financially sustainable, self-financed to a certain extent and plans for potential spinoffs. The final phase is the commercialisation. The entire process also entails technology transfer, student training exchanges and joint supervision of students with the laboratories, universities or research institutions the Catholic University of Leuven is entering in collaboration with. The University’s valorisation strategy is broad and does not focus on patents only. Patents are not a panacea. Other protections such as trade secret or trademark are also considered. Furthermore, such collaboration is not just profit oriented. There is also the possibility to use the benefits of one research to finance another research. If a research is potentially patentable, the researcher is asked to not publish so that the granting of the patent is not compromised.

Other issues discussed were the following:

- The value added to the use of genetic resources can generate substantial monetary and non-monetary benefits for provider countries such as Benin. Existing and future contracts dealing with the access and use of genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge must therefore integrate ABS principles in their provisions despite the absence of national legislation on ABS.



- The importance of harmonising ABS national legislation in Africa while taking in consideration each country's unique circumstances.
- The importance to develop national ABS frameworks that are flexible enough to address any future developments in the international regime on ABS.
- The need for capacity development in relation to the elaboration of valorisation strategy and the establishment of sustainable value chains in Africa as well as the need to recognise the value of traditional knowledge and traditional medicine and their critical role in generating innovation (so that benefits flow down to the communities)
- The need for awareness-raising and information sharing on ABS national legislation and other law relevant to ABS in provider countries.

Thematic Sessions: ABS Valorisation Strategies and Regulations

Participants were invited to participate in four of the following thematic discussions:

- Contracts and innovation: What to be Aware of When Negotiating ABS Contracts
- Different Sectors: Different ABS?
- Steps to Take in Developing Valorisation Strategies
- Basic and Commercial Research
- Traditional Knowledge Documentation
- The ABS CEPA Guide: What it Can Do for You?

A summary of the discussions for each thematic session is presented in the tables below.

Theme n°1	Contracts and Innovation: What to Be Aware of When Negotiating ABS Contracts
Objectives of the Session	To get a better understanding of key elements of ABS contracts in terms of procedure and content.
Discussion Summary	The sessions were very well attended and the discussions were very lively amongst representatives from governments as well as stakeholders representing users and providers.
Some of the Main Findings of the Session	The need for intermediary solutions to develop ABS agreements in the absence of ABS legislative frameworks in provider countries was highlighted.
Capacity Development Needs/Approaches on the Topic	The issue of intermediaries and their role in the ABS value chain was highlighted in light of the need to find approaches to ensure that ABS requirements are met by different actors along the value chain without creating a complex and unrealistic system. Mechanisms are to be developed in order to not impede the work of intermediaries while ensuring that benefits from the utilisation are shared by users down the value chain.
	A number of challenges issues were raised including: how to assess



whether an agreement is fair and equitable, what type of dispute settlement mechanism is the most appropriate, how to define the object and utilisation of genetic resources in a contract.

The need for tools to support the negotiation of ABS agreements as well as examples of existing ABS agreements was highlighted in order to be able to respond to the existing demand for ABS contracts. Country representatives also asked for training on ABS contracts and support in the negotiation of these contracts.

Theme n°2	Different Sectors, Different ABS
Objectives of the Session	Improved understanding of sectors using genetic resources (incl. research & development goals/process) in order to better negotiate MAT, Benefit-Sharing and guide policy makers in the establishment of effective national ABS systems.
Discussion Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the ABS concept, the relation between biodiversity and intellectual property and the definitions of utilisation of genetic resources and biotechnology i.e. R&D under the Nagoya Protocol. • Presentation of product development cycle (access, research and development, business plan, production, marketing) as a basis to identify when and on what basis to negotiate PIC/MAT. • Brief presentation of main sectors using genetic resources (pharmaceuticals, cosmetic, food and beverage, biotechnology) in relation to main market trends, R&D needs as well as potentials and constraints in each sector.
Some of the Main Findings of the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology transfer, skills transfer, capacity building resulting from R&D can already be considered as valuable and “low hanging fruit” benefit sharing already. • For the different sectors, it could be useful to negotiate PIC & MAT at two different stages: (i) before access, (ii) after the research and development phase. This opens up the possibility for “better informed” negotiation of Benefit-Sharing once the final product is defined and market potential is assessed. • Understanding a particular sector and case is necessary in order to plan and anticipate the timing and content of PIC & MAT, particularly with respect of subsequent uses of genetic resources. • Investments, intellectual property requirements and instruments as well as research approaches and timespans differ substantially across sectors. Expectations in Benefit-Sharing (when / what / from whom) should be differentiated accordingly. • During the (pre-)access of genetic resources period, there is a possibility for upfront benefits, e.g. for conservation or social purposes. Provider countries may consider this in the initial PIC & MAT negotiation.
Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding of sectorial business models, research and development approaches and commercialisation schemes.



Needs/Approaches on the Topic

- Training on skills to negotiate PIC & MAT according to research and development and business models of specific sectors or products.
- Consider technology transfer, skills transfer and capacity building as valuable Benefit-Sharing resulting from R&D and commercialisation phase when developing national genetic resources valorisation strategy.

Theme n°3	Valorisation Strategies: Steps to Take in Developing Valorisation Strategies
Objectives of the Session	Participants gain an overview of what an ABS valorisation strategy is, why it is important to have one, and how to go about developing such a strategy in their own country.
Discussion Summary	Valorisation starts with developing a national strategic plan. It needs to be reviewed often for it to be effective. Scientific, technical, industrial, logistical, infrastructural, commercial, and human resources capacity need to be identified and assessed. Valorisation should be based on areas where a country has a competitive advantage (genetic resources of particular commercial value, e.g. unique or abundant resources), and to supplement the conservation and sustainable use of a resource. Traditional knowledge may or may not be useful in identifying valuable uses of resources, and the traditional uses may already be known. Yet, it can contribute to sustainable use of a resource that may be valuable and should be supported in this regard.
Some of the Main Findings of the Session	<p>Valorisation is not valuation. Valorisation goes beyond valuation, in that it depends on the values that a country may want to promote. This could be commercial or commercial equivalents (technology transfer, capacity building, etc.) or public goods (e.g. standardising traditional medicines to replace pharmaceutical imports).</p> <p>The valorisation exercise needs to start from the basis of stock-taking and assessment of interesting genetic resources, followed by a visioning exercise to develop a valorisation strategy. This visioning exercise should start with meeting of a small number of well-informed individuals (5-10) to develop a basic framework for valorisation through a brainstorming exercise. Do not involve the private sector in this initial exercise because there is a risk that a skewed picture will emerge. This initial valorisation strategy should be supplemented by a series of increasingly large workshops for validation which will lead to a national participatory visioning exercise with many stakeholders present, which, in turn, will create a sense of ownership. This should provide an accurate assessment of available resources and identification of starting/entry points.</p> <p>In parallel, there is the associated traditional knowledge component. Countries should beware of assuming that traditional knowledge is of interest to researchers, because much of it has already been documented and many of the leads were investigated decades ago when natural products research was of great interest. If it did not lead to a product at that time, it may not have been of commercial interest. The place where</p>



traditional knowledge is potentially very valuable as part of a valorisation strategy is where a community lives in association with a resource that has no known value, but is being sustainably managed by a community. There may competitive advantages to using species in a certain number of countries which are sustainably managed, available in sufficient quantities, and where communities have a particular relationship with the species.

**Capacity
Development
Needs/Approaches on
the Topic**

- Support on valorisation, stocktaking exercise and developing a valorisation strategy.
- Support on identifying the actors to engage in-country to determine existing capacity and move the valorisation strategy forward.
- Support on determining whether adding value to goods in-country makes sense for any given genetic resource.
- Support on determining how the valorisation strategy fits into the broader ABS law & policy framework.
- Support on understanding commercial priorities and barriers to access in foreign markets in various sectors.

Theme n° 4	
Basic and Commercial Research: Classification of Research Activities to Apply PIC and Simplified Measures on Access	
Objectives of the Session	To give an introduction to the relevant paragraphs of the Nagoya Protocol and explain the meaning of the central issue of 'utilisation of genetic resources'. Further, to present approaches and criteria enabling Competent National Authorities to decide which kind of research on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge would trigger PIC and MAT for access as well as qualify for simplified access measures.
Discussion Summary	The composition and number of participants differed substantially between the 4 groups, so that the discussions varied and very different perspectives and issues came up.
Some of the Main Findings of the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research which triggers PIC and MAT usually operates under the understanding that it seeks to develop commercial products despite of the fact that it is often located in public institutions. • No clear-cut distinction between non-commercial and commercial research is possible in most cases. • Only strict non-commercial research needs to secure that genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are passed on to third parties under full respect of ABS provisions. • ABS-compliant rules are needed for <i>ex-situ</i> collections. • It will be a challenge to reconcile the two axioms "Researchers must respect ABS rules" and "ABS rules must not hinder research" in national ABS regimes. • Especially In countries with comprehensive university systems, it will be difficult to extent ABS requirements to local researchers accessing national genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Competent National Authorities would be overburdened. • National ABS systems need to regulate access by foreign users of <i>in-situ</i> resources and via national partners for utilisation in foreign countries. • ABS rules will change the existing practise of research on genetic



	resources and associated knowledge.
Capacity Development Needs/Approaches on the Topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable Competent National Authorities to judge what kind of research is undertaken by the users of genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge. • Inform national research institutions in all countries about ABS framework and principles. • Enable Competent National Authorities, institutions and ILCs to negotiate favourable MAT. • Build a monitoring system for utilisation on which Competent National Authorities can rely.

Theme n°5 Traditional Knowledge Documentation in the context of ABS	
Objectives of the Session	To discuss possible ways of documenting traditional knowledge that will allow an improved implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by sharing the results of the first Traditional Knowledge Documentation workshop which took place in December 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa and presenting the Draft Traditional Knowledge Documentation Toolkit developed by WIPO as a possible tool for documentation.
Discussion Summary	Participants in the various sessions first discussed why documentation was important and what it would entail. The second part of each session was then devoted to present and discuss the main findings of the Traditional Knowledge Documentation Workshop focussing on the outcomes of the study on the inventory of traditional knowledge sources in West and Central Africa carried out by the French Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), and the three examples of traditional knowledge documentation databases developed in India, South Africa and Peru. Finally, in the last part of each session, participants were introduced to the Draft Traditional Knowledge Documentation Toolkit developed by WIPO which main aim is to help conceptualise and plan a traditional knowledge documentation process and understand its key Intellectual Property dimension as a mean to assist in safeguarding the interests and protecting the rights of traditional knowledge holders by offering a menu of optional approaches to be taken into account in documentation projects and efforts.
Some of the Main Findings of the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIPO IGC is working on the definition of “traditional” and on a “new Intellectual Property like system” referred as a “<i>sui generis system</i>” that would be better suited to the protection of traditional knowledge. • Traditional knowledge documentation databases examples, the actors mapping tool used by the MNHN’s study as well as the WIPO’s Draft Traditional Knowledge Documentation Toolkit were all well received and seen as very practical by the participants.
Capacity Development Needs/Approaches on the Topic	The various sessions and discussions revealed that capacity building is particularly needed to better understand the relation or the interface between Intellectual Property, IPRs and the documentation of traditional knowledge at national and local levels.



Theme n°6 The ABS Communication, Education and Public Awareness Guide: What It Can Do For You!	
Objectives of the Session	To illustrate how the Guide can be very useful in an ABS environment characterized by a multitude of stakeholders who are interlinked in so many ways. This session focused on questions like: How to initiate and maintain communication with and among stakeholders about a variety of issues that are relevant for ABS implementation? How to design and deliver targeted information to decision makers? How to support different stakeholder groups to arrive at a shared meaning of ABS and its goals? Answers and ideas to these questions are found along the Guide's content.
Discussion Summary	Participants engaged in discussions on how they could make best use of the different tools and concepts in their specific environment. Some expressed their worries that it is too time-consuming to implement the tools. Others doubted that they could access the necessary information and address the relevant target groups to implement the tools appropriately. Only after practical exercises did they understand that these tools actually help them to detect and define their target groups and topics and not vice versa. A major discussion point was how to start the implementation of the suggested tools and the creation of the communication strategy. Some suggested a formal working group, others a small, rather informal group of three. At the end participants agreed that the communication guide can only be used usefully and effectively when the implementation of a communication strategy is understood as being based on interpersonal relations.
Some of the Main Findings of the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guide was very well received. The tools were considered useful and after having been explained, were fully understood. • Participants from different countries expressed their interest in organising a communication training based on the guide as it will help to define and approach the relevant stakeholders and topics. • It turned out that there is a psychological hurdle to start a multi-stakeholder communication approach as participants don't see themselves sufficiently equipped for implementation.
Capacity Development Needs/Approaches on the Topic	The session revealed that there is a necessity to train important ABS actors in the relevant countries in communication tools. The beneficiaries need to understand that the implementation of a communication strategy is based on interpersonal approaches that can be made more efficient and effective by implementing the suggested tools.

Conclusion and Way Forward

Innovation for ABS Implementation: Panel Discussion on The Theme of Innovation Based on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge – What Should ABS Policies and Regulation Take Into Account?

The following is a summary of the main issues discussed by the panel members and the plenary:

- In developing countries with a rich biodiversity such as Benin, technical transfer and know-how should be seen as equally important as the granting of patents. Patentless spinoffs,



based on traditional medicine or traditional knowledge, are possible and much more rewarding. For example, improving the quality of traditional medicine by verifying the property of medicinal plants can create small businesses and generate economic benefits.

- Interim measures on ABS may be an alternative that countries should consider while they are in the process of developing and implementing legal and regulatory frameworks on ABS.
- Alike the private sector, the involvement of the research industry in ABS discussions is not straightforward. Nevertheless, researchers have to keep abreast of new developments in the international regime on ABS should they have to provide some advice to policymakers in their country. It is also essential that researchers comply with the legislation of the countries where they do research and share the benefits of the results of their research with these countries.
- Biodiversity-rich countries must invest as much as possible in capacity building, education and R&D to reach their full potential. The valorisation of genetic resources from provider countries by developed countries is counterproductive. Provider countries in the South must develop their own solutions, strategies and know-how to valorise their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
- Considering the above point, it is increasingly important to encourage and develop South-South ABS dialogues, synergies and collaborations to strengthen ABS systems and advance research and development capacity in Africa.
- Adopting a holistic approach that favours community participation in the valorisation and biodiversity economy strategies development process and acknowledging the role of traditional knowledge in the valorisation of genetic resources is essential.

Priorities for National Capacity Development

Participants were divided into 10 groups and invited identify priority areas for support and consider how the ABS Initiative might best address their needs. To do so, participants were invited to reflect on the following questions:

- 1) What are the key areas in your ABS implementation efforts where external support would help you to move on?
- 2) What form of support would be most useful in these areas (please be as specific as possible)?
- 3) If you were the managers of the ABS Initiative, what conclusions would you draw from them?

Results and Summary of Group Discussions

Four general areas of engagement and support were mentioned:

- 1) Developing the capacity of experts, creating and supporting national expert groups
- 2) Supporting the identification and acquisition of funding
- 3) Cooperating with technical organisations
- 4) Improving commitment, specifically at the higher level

Four specific ideas were highlighted:

- 1) Building a network of ABS pioneer countries
- 2) Supporting the development priority lists in national ABS/valorisation issues
- 3) Working on the pre-Nagoya cases
- 4) Organising extra training for francophone countries



Topic 1: National ABS Framework

Three elements were mentioned:

- 1) Elaboration of a national ABS strategy
- 2) Development and adoption of an ABS legal framework
- 3) Development of a functional administrative structure

Support should be given through:

- Financing the national ABS system
- Financing workshops and national working groups on specific ABS topics e.g. ABS strategy, legislation, and guidelines
- Financing and supporting national ABS workshops
- Capacity development amongst legal drafters, parliamentarians, institutional experts etc.
- Technical support by ABS experts from the ABS Initiative and other institutions
- Designing special implementation programs in identified key areas in consultation with national focal points
- Legal advice to drafters and institutions
- Support of the Parliamentary process

Topic 2: Valorisation Strategy

Two elements were mentioned:

- 1) Developing a valorisation strategy as such
- 2) Documenting biodiversity / genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as part of a valorisation strategy

Support should be given through:

- The development and implementation of valorisation strategy
- Integrating the private sector of the South in valorisation strategy
- Nationally and locally driven studies on existing valorisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- Case studies on the implementation of former and current ABS contracts
- Identifying and involving entrepreneurs and research institutions willing to work on pilot phase for ABS
- Training on technology development
- Financing technology transfer, laboratory equipment, materials for creation of value chains and support of botanical gardens
- Financing and supporting R&D and start-ups
- Developing guides on databases for the documentation of traditional knowledge



- Setting up databases on biodiversity / genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

Topic 3: Training for PIC/MAT Negotiations

- Organising training on negotiation skills
- Developing guides and checklists for ABS contracts and MAT requirements
- Facilitating stakeholder consultation and negotiations

Topic 4: Awareness Raising

- Developing communication strategies and materials for awareness creation of different stakeholders and the public
- Developing ABS communication strategy (how do you communicate)

Topic 5: Regional Cooperation and Networking

- Building of regional platforms / networks for exchange of ideas
- Building of live (web-based) blog for regional and international dialogue
- Providing regular updates on international ABS developments
- Supporting regional collaboration (transboundary resources) by using regional experts
- Supporting South-South cooperation
- Financing and supporting regional workshops on IPR, value chains etc.

Topic 6: Capacity Development for ILCs

Capacity building support for ILCs (e.g. harvesting procedures to promote sustainability of genetic resources) [no other specific measures were suggested]

Closure



Presentations

The full list of presentations made during the workshop is listed here for download.

Day 1

[From Phalaborwa to Cotonou](#) – Barbara Lassen, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

[External Evaluation 2013/2014: Summary of Findings](#) – Dr Andreas Drews, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

[The Third Meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation \(ICNP-3\)](#) – Mahlet Teshome, African Union Commission and Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

[Update on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Major Outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Governing Board, Muscat, Oman, 24-28 September 2013](#) – Kent Nnadozie, Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

[The World Intellectual Property Organisation Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore](#) – Oluwatobiloba Moody, Traditional Knowledge Division at the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

[European Union Regulation on ABS: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Compliance Measures for Users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation in the Union](#) – Morten Walløe Tvedt, Fridtjof Nansen Institute.

[African Union Guidelines for a Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS: an Update](#) – Mahlet Teshome, African Union Commission.

Day 2

[Developing ABS Policies and Strategies: Conceptual Framework](#) – Pierre du Plessis, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

[La Stratégie APA au Bénin: Processus Suivi, Acquis et Perspectives](#) – Hugues Adéloui Akpona, ABS Focal Point.

[South African National Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy](#) – Preshantie Naicker, South African Department of Environmental Affairs

[Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie](#) – Pr Fernand Gbaguidi, Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie.

Day 4

[Contracts and Innovation: What to be Aware of When Negotiating ABS Contracts](#) – Morten Walløe Tvedt, Fridtjof Nansen Institute and Valérie Normand, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.



Understanding Private Sector Practices and Needs: Prerequisite to Establish Functional ABS Systems and Agreements – Suhel al-Janabi, ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Chloé Ambroset, PhD in Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Recherche, Access et Partage des Avantages: Madagascar – Dr Claudine Ramiarison, Direction Générales de la Recherche et du Partenariat.

Basic Research – An Introduction: When do PIC and Simplified Access Measures Apply? What are the Risks? – Dr Susanne Heitmüller, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

Access for Non-Commercial, Pre-Commercial and Commercial Research: Issues and Options – Dr Hartmut Meyer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

Traditional Knowledge Documentation in the Context of ABS – Barbara Lassen and Stephanie Burin, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

The ABS Communication, Education and Public Awareness Guide: What It Can Do for You! – Tobias Dierks, ABS Capacity Development Initiative.



Annotated Agenda

Monday 10th March 2014

Introduction and Updates

8h30 **Arrival and registration**

9h00 **Opening Ceremony**

- Theophile Kakpo, Directeur Général des Forêts et des Ressources Naturelles, Benin
- Suhel al-Janabi, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Germany
- Bente Herstad, NORAD, Norway
- Rajae Chafil, Organisation Mondiale de la Francophonie, Canada
- Hans Jörg Neuman, German Ambassador to Benin
- Raphael Edou, Ministre de l'Environnement Chargé de la Gestion des Changements Climatiques, du Reboisement et de la Protection des Ressources Naturelles et Forestières, Benin

Introduction to the Meeting

- Programme of the workshop
- Getting to know each other
- Presentation of the film *ABS Simply Explained*

10h30 Tea/Coffee Break

11h00 **ABS Initiative: Update**

From Phalaborwa to Cotonou

Kick-off presentation: Barbara Lassen, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Germany

Evaluation of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative: Results

Andreas Drews, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Germany

12h30 Lunch

14h00 **International Processes: Update**

Convention on Biological Diversity, ICNP 3 and the Way to COP 12

Mahlet Teshome, African Union, Ethiopia and Hartmut Mayer, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Germany

FAO and WIPO: Brief Updates on Current Processes

Kent Nnadozi, FAO, Pierre du Plessis, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Germany and Tobi Moody, WIPO, Switzerland

15h30 Tea/Coffee Break

16h00 **Regional Processes: Update**

European Union : Policy Update

Morten Walloe Tvedt, Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), Norway

African Union: Technical Update

Mahlet Teshome, African Union, Ethiopia



- 17h30 End of Day One
- 19h00 Reception hosted by the Government of Benin

Tuesday 11th March 2014

Developing ABS Strategies & Policies: Inputs and Experiences

- 8h30 **Developing ABS Strategies & Policies: Conceptual Framework**
Strategy Processes and Policy Choices for ABS
Pierre du Plessis, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Germany
- 10h30 Tea/Coffee Break
- 11h00 **Developing ABS Strategies & Policies: Experiences**
The ABS Strategy Process in Benin
Hugues Akpona, ABS Focal Point, Benin
The 'Biodiversity Economy Strategy ' of South Africa
Preshantie Naicker, Department of Environment Affairs, South Africa
- 12h30 Lunch
- 14h00 **Excursion Preparation**
Introduction to the Case
Pr Fernand Gbaguidi, Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie, Porto Novo, Benin
- 15h30 Tea/Coffee Break
- 16h00 **African Group Coordination**
Open Ended Discussion (for African Participants only)
- 17h00 End of Day Two

Wednesday 12th March 2014

Excursion: The Laboratory of Pharmacognosy in Porto Novo and its Research Collaboration with the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium on Traditional Medicinal Plants

- 07h30 Departure for Porto Novo
- 08h30 Field Visit of:
- Laboratory of Pharmacognosy (Benin Centre for Scientific and Technical Research)
 - National Medicinal Plant Garden
 - Hwlenganton Medical Clinic and 'Maison de la Feuille.'
- 13h30 Lunch



14h00	<p>Panel Discussion : Exchange of Views between Stakeholders</p> <p><i>Panellists: Hugues Akpona, ABS Focal Point, Benin; Pr Fernand Gbaguidi, Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie, Porto Novo, Benin; Nathalie Poupaert, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium; Couvi Antoine Padonou, Representative of the Traditional Medicine Clinic, Benin and Pierre Agbani, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et la Recherche Scientifique, Benin</i></p>
15h30	Introduction to Thematic Sessions
16h00	Return Trip to Cotonou (for African Participants only)
18h00	Arrival in Cotonou and End of Day Three

Thursday 13th March 2014

ABS Valorisation Strategies and Regulations: Thematic Sessions

8h30	<p>Plenary: Organisation of Thematic Sessions</p> <p><i>Every participants may participate in 4 of the following 6 parallel thematic sessions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contracts and Innovations: What to Be Aware of When Negotiating ABS Contracts• Different Sectors – Different ABS?• Steps to Take in Developing Valorisation Strategies• Traditional Knowledge Documentation• Basic and Commercial Research• The ABS CEPA Guide: What It Can Do for You
9h00	Thematic Sessions Phase 1 Parallel Sessions
10h30	Tea/Coffee Break
11h00	Thematic Sessions Phase 2 Parallel Sessions
12h30	Lunch
14h00	Thematic Sessions Phase 3 Parallel Sessions
15h30	Tea/Coffee Break
16h00	Thematic Sessions Phase 4 Parallel Sessions
17h30	End of Day of Thematic Sessions
17h45	CEPA Tools Developed and Offered by the ABS Initiative



Tobias Dierks, ABS Initiative, Germany.

18h00 End of Day Four

Friday 14th March 2014

Conclusion and Way Forward

8h30 Innovation for ABS Implementation:
Panel Discussion: Innovation Bases in Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge
– What should ABS Policies and Regulation Take into Account?
Panellists: Suhel al-Janabi, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Germany; Lili Rodriguez, Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft, Germany ; Pr Fernand Gbaguidi, Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie, Porto Novo, Benin ; Bruno David, Institut de Recherche Pierre Fabre, France; Søren Mark Jensen, Danish Ministry of the Environment, Denmark; Mrs Leclerc, from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

10h30 Tea/Coffee Break

11h00 Priorities for National Capacity Development:
Group Work to Inform the ABS Initiative

12h30 Lunch

14h00 Priorities for National Capacity Development (Continued)

15h30 Tea/Coffee Break

16h00 Feedback on the Group Work and Way Forward

16h30 Workshop Evaluation

17h00 Closure

17h30 End of Workshop



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