



Subregional Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing for Anglophone African Countries

*Hosted by the Kenyan National Environment Management Authority
26-30 September 2016, Nairobi, Kenya*

- Concept Note -

Background

Since the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilisation (ABS) in 2014, African countries have intensified activities to develop their domestic ABS systems. At the regional level, guidance is provided by the African Union Guidelines for a coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol since 2015, and the African Group continues to play an important role in the negotiations of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol.

The ABS Capacity Development Initiative supports the elaboration of regulatory frameworks, the development of ABS compliant value chains and the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in ABS in its African partner countries. Furthermore, it continues to offer capacity building services on ABS and related topics to stakeholders from all African countries as well as from the Caribbean and Pacific regions, and supports their involvement in ABS-related international processes.

Being one of the “early movers” on ABS in Africa, Kenya has had an ABS legislation for several years. Kenya’s biodiversity has drawn researchers’ interest for decades, and there are already ABS contracts in place with users from abroad. Kenya is currently revising its national ABS legislation to increase its effectiveness and compliance with the Nagoya Protocol. Kenya’s civil society, too, has been actively engaged in ABS-related matters for years, and several community protocol processes have been started around local genetic resources and traditional knowledge with Kenyan indigenous peoples and local communities.

Approach and Objectives

In the run-up to the 13th Conference of Parties to the CBD and the second Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-13 / MOP-2), to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in December 2016, the ABS Initiative organises two subregional workshops for Anglophone and Francophone African countries.

The Anglophone workshop is going to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 30 September 2016. It will provide a forum for stakeholders from Anglophone African countries to learn about recent developments in the ABS arena, exchange experiences and discuss approaches to implementing the Nagoya Protocol and other ABS-related issues.

Specifically, the workshop aims to:

- Introduce the guidance frame provided by the AU Guidelines on a Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- Discuss approaches to developing national regulatory frameworks;
- Foster exchange on strategic approaches to the valorisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge;
- Discuss elements and functioning of ABS agreements as well as related monitoring and compliance instruments;

- Provide a forum to exchange on approaches to involving indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in ABS and integrate the protection of traditional knowledge.

The workshop programme will also include a one-day field visit to the site of a Kenyan ABS case. This field visit will provide an opportunity to learn about the Kenyan ABS system and discuss the elements of a particular practical example.

In preparation for the workshop, participants will be asked to participate in a short survey. The results of that survey will provide guidance to the organisers when finalising the workshop programme.

Participants

The about 40 participants will include National ABS Focal Points, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, stakeholders from research and civil society as well as private sector representatives.