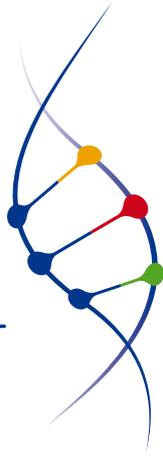
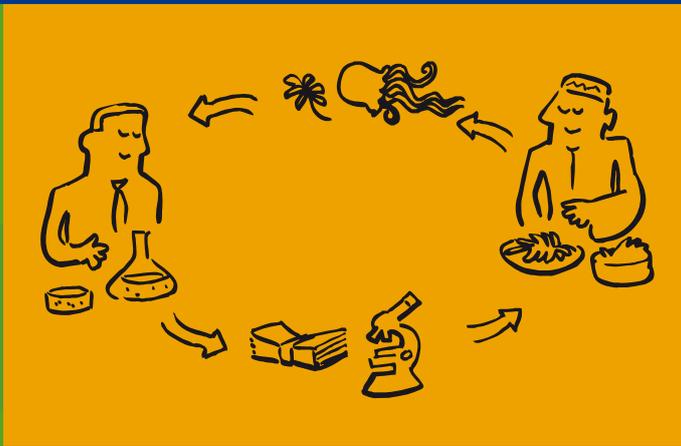


THE **ABS**
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE

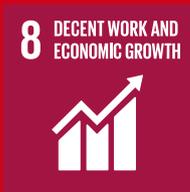


L'INITIATIVE DE
RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES
POUR L'**APA**



POLICY PAPER

How ABS and the Nagoya Protocol contribute to the Sustainable Development Agenda



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POLICY PAPER

How ABS and the Nagoya Protocol contribute to the Sustainable Development Agenda

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be reached by 2030.

The Agenda addresses poverty alleviation, equity, social justice and sound environmental management to ensure economically, ecologically and socially sustainable development. It builds on the Millennium Development Goals and completes them, among other things, by the declared will to join forces in a collaborative partnership, to which all countries and stakeholders need to contribute.

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are essential pillars of sustainable development and are widely reflected in the SDGs and their targets. More specifically, “Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use (ABS)” is integrated into the SDGs in a number of ways.

ABS is one of the three equally standing objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – and its implementation is the primary purpose of the Nagoya Protocol. It exists to promote fairness and equity in the sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, and encourages reinvestment of benefits into conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems. The Nagoya Protocol provides further clarity, transparency and legal certainty in the international exchange of genetic resources (GR), and adds traditional knowledge (TK) associated with GR to the ambit of ABS.



Within the Rio Conventions, from their outset, ABS is the only mechanism that rests on fostering fair international partnerships and explicitly encompasses not only ecological, but also social and economic aspects. This underlines the relevance of ABS for achieving the SDGs, on matters as wide ranging as poverty alleviation, food security, health, economic growth, innovation, oceans and governance. It also explains the many direct and indirect references made to ABS in several SDG targets, which are shown in the tables further below.

Policy makers and administrators around the world are well aware of the manifold development opportunities that ABS provides. To unleash its full potential and leverage tangible impacts, however, provider countries need to establish effective regulatory frameworks, develop national valorisation strategies, and negotiate ABS agreements with the users of genetic resources. In this process, many countries are seeking legal and technical advice to prepare regulations and contracts, as well as expert input and facilitation support to develop valorisation strategies.

The multi-donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative has the expertise, capacity and network of partners necessary to support countries in their efforts to operationalize the Nagoya Protocol at national level. In its current phase, the ABS Initiative focuses on contributing to the establishment of functioning ABS agreements between providers and users. It also supports several of its partner and cooperation countries in designing and implementing the required regulatory frameworks.

Despite stated international commitments to substantially increase support to biodiversity, however, insufficient financial support remains a key obstacle to achieving the objectives of the CBD. In order to secure the full range of benefits from implementing the Nagoya Protocol, more political and financial support is required from national and international sources.

Then ABS can fully unleash its potential as a powerful instrument to leverage tangible impacts in provider countries and foster sustainable development for present and future generations in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Links to ABS in the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Direct reference in target 2.5

By 2020, **maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species**, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and **promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.**

Links to ABS

- Preserving and sustainably managing global genetic diversity is at the core of ABS, as spelled out in the NP and in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).
- Establishing ABS-compliant value chains, especially where indigenous peoples and local communities – often small-holder farmers or pastoralists – participate in the benefits, contributes to rural development, food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture.
- Sustainable management of cultivated plant and farm animal genetic resources also helps to preserve ecosystems, thus contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The economic potential of ABS serves as trigger/incentive for the creation or maintenance of gene banks and traditional knowledge inventories at national and community level.



Protect, restore and sustainably manage use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Direct reference in target 15.6

Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

Links to ABS

- Target 15.6 directly repeats and reinforces the main policy objectives of the NP and ITPGRFA, underlining the need for their implementation.
- Promoting these agreements will require specific programmes and projects to help countries establish the necessary institutional and regulatory frameworks as well as develop ABS-compliant value chains.

The Nagoya Protocol also indirectly supports SDGs 1, 3, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, especially the following targets:



End poverty in all of its forms everywhere

Target 1.4

By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have **equal rights to economic resources**, as well as access to basic services, **ownership and control over land and other forms of property**, inheritance, **natural resources**, appropriate **new technology** and financial services, including microfinance.

Links to ABS

- In many cases, implementing ABS in a fair and equitable manner requires clarification of resource ownership and associated rights.
- Helping countries design regulatory and institutional ABS frameworks, and supporting communities to participate effectively in negotiations about ABS agreements, is thus one element to promote justice and legal certainty in the spirit of target 1.4.
- Benefits from ABS-compliant value chains can be monetary and/or non-monetary (e.g. technology transfer) and accrue to countries, communities (through development funds etc.) and individuals (e.g. as cooperative members).
- The NP stipulates that IPLCs are adequately informed and involved when genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are accessed and benefits are shared, thereby promoting local development and empowerment.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Target 3.b

Support the **research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries**, provide access to **affordable essential medicines and vaccines**, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.

Links to ABS

- Many communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America use traditional medicine to meet primary health care needs.
- ABS-compliant work on genetic resources may lead to the discovery of new medical treatments that may help cure millions of people and contribute to overall well-being.
- The NP clearly aims at promoting just and equal partnerships between the R&D communities of developing and developed countries, and, where applicable, with indigenous peoples and local communities.
- NP Art 8 b provides special provision for emergency situations that threaten human, animal or plant health.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.3

Promote **development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation**, and encourage the **formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises**, including through access to financial services.

Links to ABS

- ABS is the most targeted mechanism among all MEAs aimed at explicitly harnessing new opportunities for economic and social development.
- ABS seeks to promote entrepreneurial partnerships between different sectors (including public and private) and at various levels (international/national/local).
- Prior informed consent procedures for indigenous peoples and local communities, as foreseen by the ABS mechanism, also contribute to pro-poor growth in rural areas.
- The multidisciplinary nature of ABS leads to cooperation between sectors, increasing the effectiveness of environment-related strategies and policies.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Target 9.5

Enhance **scientific research**, upgrade the **technological capabilities** of industrial sectors in all countries, in **particular developing countries**, including, by 2030, encouraging **innovation** and substantially increasing the number of **research and development** workers per 1 million people and **public and private research and development spending**.

Target 9.b

Support **domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries**, including by ensuring a **conducive policy environment** for, inter alia, **industrial diversification** and **value addition to commodities**.

Links to ABS

- ABS transactions hold great potential for global scientific progress and innovation.
- R&D partnerships between 'North' and 'South', to be established in the context of ABS, include technology transfer and scientific capacity building and may thus contribute significantly to foster applied research and science in developing countries.
- ABS has potential as an instrument to finance biodiversity and develop green(er) economies in provider countries, thus enabling more countries to benefit from new technological developments.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Target 13.1

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

Links to ABS

- ABS provides incentives for maintaining a high diversity of genes, species and ecosystems. Highly diverse natural and agroecosystems show a stronger resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural disasters.
- Access to climate-appropriate genetic resources is a critical success factor in climate change adaptation.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Target 14.7

By 2030, increase the **economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries** from the **sustainable use of marine resources**, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

Target 14.a

Increase **scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology**, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to **enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries**.

Links to ABS

- The global oceans host a major part of largely unexplored biodiversity. ABS therefore holds great R&D potential for future products based on marine genetic resources.
- ABS-compliant R&D agreements may provide a significant source of new income, based on the sustainable, fair and equitable use of these resources. This is particularly interesting for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which hold substantial marine areas and ocean floor under their exclusive economic zones, i.e. under their national jurisdiction.



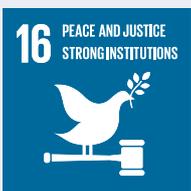
Protect, restore and sustainably manage use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.a

Mobilize and significantly increase **financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.**

Links to ABS

- ABS agreements help mobilize new financial resources, both at the national and at the local level, thus providing incentives for the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes can make an important contribution to safeguarding ecosystem services while benefitting local livelihoods. Provisioning services are products obtained from ecosystems such as GR. The NP is the only internationally agreed and legally binding mechanism for PES. Lessons learnt from this concept can also be applied to other categories of ecosystem services, such as water and pollination.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Target 16.3

Promote the **rule of law** at the national and international levels and ensure **equal access to justice** for all.

Target 16.6

Develop **effective, accountable and transparent institutions** at all levels.

Links to ABS

- Implementing ABS requires review and, in many cases, rearrangements of national laws and institutions.
- Helping countries to manage this process in a transparent, participatory way may contribute to strengthening civil society, to rendering public institutions more transparent, and to clarifying mandates for effective cooperation between the private sector and public research organisations.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Target 17.3

Mobilize **additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.**

Target 17.7

Promote the **development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.**

Target 17.9

Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

Target 17.14

Enhance **policy coherence** for sustainable development.

Target 17.15

Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, **complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources**, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

Links to ABS

- National ABS frameworks promote more effective R&D and value chain development based on biological and genetic resources, thus helping to secure economic and livelihood gains for local people. They can therefore be considered an innovative financing option for sustainable development.
- ABS agreements can contribute to providing financial resources at the local level which may be used for conservation and development work.
- Benefit-sharing mechanisms in ABS include non-monetary aspects such as technology transfer and capacity building.
- ABS rests on sound and coherent policies. Supporting effective implementation of ABS therefore involves reviewing and, where necessary, adjusting sectoral policies to make them more coherent.
- ABS involves international, public-public, public-private and often multi-stakeholder partnerships. Promoting these clearly supports the spirit of targets 17.9 and 17.15.

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany

T +49 61 96 79-3285
F +49 61 96 79-803285

abs-initiative@giz.de

www.giz.de

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