

Access
and
Benefit
Sharing

ABS Capacity Development
Initiative for Africa

First pan-African Workshop on
ABS and Forests

Nairobi, 22-25 June 2009

Summary Report and
Workshop Recommendations



Pour COMIFAC
en coopération avec



Structure

- Background
- Objectives
- Hosts & Participants
- Program
- Process
- Results



Forests deserve special attention for ABS in Africa:

- Forests harbor the large **majority of Africa's** terrestrial **genetic resources**.
- Forests fall into **separate categories of land tenure**. Existing forest regulations address **non-timber forest products** as commodities and not as “**ABS-eligible**” **genetic resources**. Land tenure systems therefore **require special consideration** for designing appropriate and practical **ABS schemes**.

This workshop was part of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa. Further information:

www.abs-africa.info.



Three main objectives of the workshop

1. Identify aspects of national and international **forest governance that may support ABS processes** (strategies, methodologies, ...).
2. Identify potential benefits of considering **ABS for the sustainable governance of forests**.
3. Identify **interfaces and linkages between forest governance and ABS** at the national and international levels, with the aim of fostering the dialogue between relevant actors.



Composition of hosts and participants:

- 80 participants.
- 25 countries represented.
- Country teams: UNFF and ABS Focal Points.
- Hosts: UNEP, ICRAF and KFS.
- Support: SCBD and GTZ.



Thematic Program Elements

Ensuring complementarity of ABS and SFM

- Forest governance and ABS have so far been two separate processes. Participants examined access rights, valorisation, certification and trade, and identified how these can contribute to implementing ABS policies.



Learning from NFPs: stakeholder involvement

- NFPs are socio-political dialogues that involve all relevant stakeholders. Participants discussed how stakeholders may be identified and involved in decision-making, and how conflicting interests may be dealt with.

Regional processes to improve forest governance: Lessons for ABS

- FLEGT is high on the agenda in many regional and international processes. Issues like legality assurance systems, participatory approaches and TFRK were examined with the aim of further developing ideas to support the negotiations of the ABS regime.

Intense process

- 14 expert **inputs** on Forest Governance and ABS.
- Focused **discussions** of an extraordinarily engaged audience.
- **Field trip** related to workshop themes.
- Interactive procedure for developing **recommendations**.



1. Key Findings

- ABS and forest management are inextricably linked. However **existing legislation relating to forests and the environment do not sufficiently address the issue of ABS**. This is as a result of the lack of linkages between ABS and forestry legal mechanisms in many African countries.
- There is a **low level of mutual awareness** and stakeholder participation on both ABS and forestry issues. There is therefore a need to develop capacity at different levels.
- There is a **need to develop/implement legal provisions** as well as tracking and monitoring systems that address ABS and forestry issues.
- Some genetic **resources and traditional knowledge are shared among countries and communities**. This requires national and **regional strategies** to deal with ABS and forest management.

2. Recommendations to the ABS Community
3. Recommendations to the Forestry Community
4. Recommendations to the National Level
5. Recommendations to the International Level
 - Undertake a **study by independent institutions on the linkages between ABS and the non-legally binding instruments of the UNFF** to enrich the ongoing negotiations towards an IRABS and under UNFF.

3. Recommendations to the Forestry Community

The forestry community should:

- Integrate ABS issues into forest policy and legislation.
- Build capacity within the forest community to address ABS issues in forest legislation and implementation.
- Put in place a communication strategy on relevant forest issues to the ABS community.
- Identify potential values of biological resources and TK for income generation under ABS.
- Explore the potential of including ABS aspects within licensing schemes such as forest certification.
- Integrate ABS concepts in technical and professional programs

4. Recommendations to the National Level

- Develop, harmonize and enforce legislation on ABS and forestry.
- Develop and implement a strategy for research, capacity building, communication, awareness raising and information sharing on ABS, forestry and their linkages.
- Develop and implement a funding mechanism for sustainable ABS and forestry activities.
- Ensure full participation of all stakeholders including women, youth and other vulnerable groups in ABS and forestry activities.
- Put in place mechanisms to facilitate the mutual briefing of ABS and forestry focal points before attending local and international meetings.
- Clarify how ABS functions under different land tenure systems.
- Establish clear modalities on access and benefit sharing including conflict prevention and resolution.
- Conduct specialized training for monitoring and enforcement.

5. Recommendations to the International Level

- Involve regional and subregional organizations in the organizing of workshops and high level segment meetings for ABS and UNFF focal points
- UNEP should ensure that there is a level of coordination between the UNFF and ABS processes and that linkages are made between these processes and REDD.
- Undertake a study by independent institutions (for example the Fridjof Nansen Institute) on the linkages between ABS and the non-legally binding instruments of the UNFF to enrich the ongoing negotiations towards an IRABS and under UNFF.
- As cooperation between the SUNFF and SCBD covers ABS at the very margins, SCBD and SUNFF should actively participate in the relevant meetings of the other forum and take, where appropriate, the floor to raise awareness about interfaces and possible conflicts that may arise
- Put in place sustainable financing mechanisms (ex GEF or other donors) to support african countries in the implementation of ABS recommendations

**Thank you very much for
your attention !**