

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON
ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

Ninth meeting

Cali, Colombia, 22-28 March 2010

**REPORT OF THE “INFORMAL EXPERTS CONSULTATION ON ABS AND THE
STRATEGIC PLAN”**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, the report of the “Informal Experts Consultation on ABS and the Strategic Plan” organized by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS), in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Working Group and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), held in Yokohama, Japan, on 18-19 December 2009.
2. The report is being circulated herewith in the form and languages in which it was made available to the Secretariat.

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Report
Informal Experts Consultation on ABS and the Strategic Plan
Co-organized by UNEP and UNU-IAS
Date: Dec 18-19, 2009
Yokohama, Japan

- In the coming year the two issues of Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing and revised Biodiversity Targets will predominate in the biodiversity related negotiations in the run-up to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at Nagoya, Japan in Oct, 2010.
- Appropriately bringing them together will begin to comprehensively address conservation and development issues with an emphasis on equity.
- The Strategic Plan (SP) is the key instrument that drives the work programmes under the CBD guided by the Conference of the Parties. The Plan provides direction to the CBD processes in terms of achieving the three overall objectives of the Convention, namely, conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits.
- Currently, regional consultations on a revised Strategic Plan post-2010 are on-going.
- The draft SP, while addressing various issues related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, does not provide sufficient elaboration on how ABS, the third objective of the Convention, will be effectively implemented and achieved.
- There is therefore a clear need to have focused and specific inputs in the SP that adequately address setting clear and appropriate goals and targets and indicators to achieve progress on ABS.
- To facilitate such a discussion, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations University's Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) organized an Informal Expert Consultation on "ABS and the 2010 Strategic Plan of the CBD" on 18-19 Dec, 2009 at UNU-IAS, Yokohama, Japan.
- The gathered Experts concurred that work on this area is a priority that appears to have received limited focus and attention at all levels both within the current strategic plan and the future strategic plan. They also highlighted that the current ABS target developed from discussions thus far has not fully evolved and was considered more as a 'placeholder' with limited further elaboration.
- They noted that fair and equitable benefit sharing can support and create incentives for sustainable use, and thereby conservation of biodiversity, implying that the third objective is integral to achieving the other objectives.
- It was felt that the SP should provide sufficient emphasis on all the objectives, which would enable successfully enhancing biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and human well-being.

- The experts believed that work in this important area could be done without prejudice to the on-going International ABS Regime negotiations and, in fact, could ultimately enhance the Regime's implementation.
- Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, UNEP, presented statistics from the 3rd National Report of Parties, and of preliminary results from the 4th National Reports. However the national reports seem not to provide much guidance for actions related to ABS.
- One reason for this was that countries were reporting in the format of targets and sub-targets of the current SP, which does not have an indicator for ABS. Hence, although countries may have relevant work on implementing ABS, these were probably not showing up in the reports.
- This further confirms the urgent need to ensure the future SP of CBD considers ABS issues at strategic level so that development of future global biodiversity targets adequately reflect the role and relevance of ABS in achieving the targets beyond 2010.
- The consultation adopted the following workflow- first the draft Vision and Mission statements (in the draft SP) were examined and language cognizant of ABS's role in achieving the mandate of the CBD were introduced.
- A similar exercise was followed by an examination of Target 17 (that deals specifically with ABS). It was decided not to suggest revisions on other targets that relate to ABS incidentally (Targets 2, 15, 18).
- Relevant headline indicators and sub-indicators (or activities that can be measured under each) were then identified and articulated. The exercise followed the guidelines set in the draft SP that indicators need to be 'SMART' (strategic, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound).
- The results of the consultation are highlighted below.

Suggestion for VISION Statement

Biological Diversity- sustaining life on earth: to conserve, restore and wisely use, and equitably share its benefits.

Suggestion for Mission Statement

Halting Biodiversity¹ Loss: Accelerate action to conserve and restore biodiversity, reduce the threats it faces- staying within ecological limits- wisely use and equitably share its benefits; so that by 2020 we have improved its status, prevented extinctions and enhanced ecosystem services, contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication. To ensure that all countries have the means to achieve this.

The terms Biodiversity and Biological Diversity are interchangeably used

Suggestion for TARGET 17

By 2020, to have accelerated and widened the implementation of transparent ABS frameworks, in accordance with the international regime on ABS, and to have enhanced awareness that equitable benefit sharing arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including associated traditional knowledge, supports conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

*Suggestions for **Headline Indicators***

Criteria followed: Measurability, scalability (at different levels-local, national, regional, global) relevance to countries and availability of data to measure progress/implementation

A. Countries acceding to the IR/ Protocol having in place administrative, legal and policy measures for implementation of ABS provisions, including through designated competent national authorities

Suggestions for Measurable sub-indicators/ activities:

- Number of countries acceding to the IR/Protocol
- Number of countries implementing administrative, legislative and policy measures on ABS
- Number of designated competent national authorities on ABS

B. Capacity building and awareness raising initiatives aimed at enhancing the understanding of all relevant stakeholders on issues of ABS, with concomitant funding for implementation of ABS provisions

Suggestions for Measurable sub-indicators/ activities:

- Number and proportion of relevant stakeholders (scientists, industry, government, civil society, ILCs, etc) aware of ABS provisions
- Number of awareness programs through media and other avenues on ABS.
- Number of publications on policy and scientific issues related to genetic resources and associated TK, in the context of ABS.
- Number of university/ tertiary courses related to ABS.
- Capacity building measures (eg., No.of seminars/ workshops, training programmes Technical assistance projects)
- Amount of Funding made available for ABS specific programmes
- Valuation of GR and their utilization better understood (viz., economic value, number of scientific collaboration activities, inventories incl. Taxonomic, TK inventories, digital libraries)

C. Measures related to access to genetic resources/ associated TK and benefit sharing

Suggestions for Measurable sub-indicators/ activities:

- Number of approvals related to access to genetic resources/ associated TK
- Value of benefits accrued and shared
- Number and proportion (to total ABS agreements) of agreements with ILCs.
- Number of ABS agreements
- Number of patents related to GRs and associated TK
- Proportion of patents with disclosure of origin of GRs/ associated TK
- Number of certificates of compliance

Other relevant suggestions

- The results of the negotiations on the International regimes on ABS would have implications for the process of review and implementation of the SP. It is therefore suggested to appropriately reflect this in the sections on review in the SP.
- It is also suggested that the proposed mechanisms for support to research, monitoring and assessment reflect that they should be done in a manner that supports the three objectives of the Convention.
- It is suggested to include other partners such as WIPO, WTO, ATS, UNCLOS, FAO, WHO to effectively implement the Strategic Plan. Linkages to Environment Management Group (EMG) on finding effective ways and means of implementing the Strategic Plan need also to be found.

<u>Suggestion for SMART Target</u>	<u>Means and examples of activities</u>	<u>Possible Indicators</u>	<u>Most relevant CBD programmes of work and cross-cutting issues</u>	<u>Possible Synergies and partnerships</u>	<u>Examples of existing national biodiversity target</u>
<p>17. By 2020, to have accelerated and widened the implementation of transparent ABS frameworks, in accordance with the international regime on ABS, and to have enhanced awareness that equitable benefit sharing arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including associated traditional knowledge, supports conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>	<p>Provide technical assistance to develop national ABS frameworks and legislation and implement the international regime</p> <p>Implement awareness raising activities among users and providers of genetic resources</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to support research and utilization of genetic resources to generate value</p> <p>OTHERS</p>	<p>A. Countries acceding to the IR/ Protocol having in place administrative, legal and policy measures for implementation of ABS provisions, including through designated competent national authorities</p> <p>B. Capacity building and awareness raising initiatives aimed at enhancing the understanding of all relevant stakeholders on issues of ABS, with concomitant funding for implementation of ABS provisions</p> <p>C. Measures related to access to genetic resources/ associated TK and benefit sharing</p>	<p>Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing</p>	<p>UNEP, WIPO, WTO, ATS, UNCLOS, FAO, WHO, ITPGFRA, UNU, UNESCO</p>	<p>By 2010, national programme for ABS will be fully developed and sufficient number of personnel for protection of indigenous traditional knowledge. (Sweden)</p>

Note: Text in bold indicates suggestions from the Consultation.