



## Developing the southern African biotrade

ABioSA supports the development of a resilient southern African biotrade which adds value to natural plant ingredients, develops new products, and stimulates economic opportunities while recognising the importance of traditional knowledge, biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use.

ABioSA's aim is to create a high-growth, jobs-rich and innovative biotrade sector with small businesses that comply with domestic and international regulations.

ABioSA works in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Eswatini, where it provides technical assistance and financial support at a sector and small business level. ABioSA helps businesses to become more competitive by supporting them to become investment ready, access funds, overcome regulatory hurdles to exporting products, and access local and international markets.

In phase I, ABioSA worked with 13 biotrade value chains and plant species, selected on criteria including traditional and indigenous knowledge, ecological sustainability, market demand, potential for value-adding and job creation, and opportunities for participation of small businesses and local communities.

Phase II is focused on implementation of sector development plans for six plant species and value chains, some of which straddle national borders.

**South Africa is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, with more than 21,000 plant species, many of them endemic. It has emerging biotrade value chains of economic importance for southern Africa.**



**Baobab**  
(*Adansonia digitata*)



**Marula**  
(*Sclerocarya birrea subsp. caffra*)



**Aloe**  
(*Aloe ferox*)



**Buchu**  
(*Agathosma spp.*)



**Honeybush**  
(*Cyclopia*)



**Sceletium**  
(*Sceletium tortuosum*)

<b>Project name:</b> ABioSA (ABS-Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa)	<b>Country focus:</b> South Africa (70%) and southern Africa (30%)	<b>South African government partner:</b> Department for Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
<b>ABioSA phase II timing:</b> November 2021 to December 2024. This follows a first project phase from February 2018 to October 2021.	<b>Funded by:</b> Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)	<b>Management:</b> Access and Benefit-Sharing Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative)
<b>Funding:</b> 3.3 million Swiss Francs	<b>Implemented by:</b> GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH)	<b>Governance:</b> ABioSA is integrated into the governance structure of the ABS Initiative, with its project steering committee consisting of SECO, GIZ and DFFE

ABioSA project components	
Component 1	Fostering southern African SMME innovation and growth through technical and financial support
Component 2	Strengthening the biotrade through sector-level technical and financial assistance for business support organisations and stakeholders in selected value chains; and technical assistance for communities
Component 3	Developing and brokering of knowledge products, and creation of southern African biotrade sector platforms, to encourage improved dialogue and engagement
ABioSA partners and collaborators	
South African government departments and implementing agencies	
Other international development organisations	
Development finance institutions and biotrade or trade organisations	
Sector organisations, experts and consultants	

**Contact**  
ABioSA welcomes inputs from communities and biotrade businesses.

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