



Work Plan 04/2018-03/2019 – Pacific

22 March 2018

This work plan is based on the ABS Initiative's [Programme Document 2015-2020](#) and the experiences and outcomes of the activities undertaken under the Initiative's previous work plans (2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18). Responding to [CBD COP Decision XIII/23](#) on Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism, it aims to contribute to the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in collaboration with a broad range of relevant partners.

The selection of activities is based on the available budget for the Pacific region, covering the period from April 2018 to March 2019 and the requests received during the inception and capacity building workshop for the GEF funded and UN Environment implemented Regional Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Project which is executed by the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The work plan is structured along the main processes outlined in the Initiative's Programme Document 2015-2020. Information on the actual contributions of the ABS Initiative is preceding the descriptions of the activities / processes reflected in the work plan.

Implementation of the workplan will be coordinated by the Regional Project Manager Associate Professor Daniel Robinson of UNSW. The support of the ABS Initiative will be supplemented with mutually supportive Australian Research Council (ARC) funding (DP180100507) assigned to A/Prof Daniel Robinson and Dr Margaret Raven (AUD 568,000 for 2018-2022) for the project "Indigenous knowledge futures: protecting and promoting indigenous knowledge." The geographical focus of the project is on Australia (primarily Northern Territory), **Vanuatu and Cook Islands**.

1 Core Implementation Processes: National Support

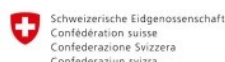
During the in-country visits to Vanuatu and Fiji in November 2017 competent national authorities (CNAs) and a number of in-country stakeholders requested support for further capacity-building to improve their partial ABS frameworks and in-country activities.

Initial scoping and correspondence with national focal points (NFPs), CNAs, the University of South Pacific (USP) and other stakeholders highlighted that there are also some developments in ABS procedures in Solomon Islands and Cook Islands indicating further potential for support towards ratification of the Nagoya Protocol.

The ABS Initiative capacity to support PNG in their ABS processes is pending confirmation of dates and details from the PNG National Focal Point about the upcoming planned in-country visit in early 2018 (February or March).

Planned activities will continue to contribute to the three core process in varying degrees. IPLC support in general and specifically in Vanuatu and the Cook Islands will benefit from the ARC grant mentioned above.

The ABS Initiative is funded by



Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

and implemented by



Vanuatu: A country visit is planned for August 2018. Proposed activities:

- *ABS framework:* Support for further development of the ABS permitting procedures, bioprospecting provisions of the Act and review of the TK Bill.
- *IPLC participation:* The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation has recommended local awareness raising/training workshops in provincial locations including on the islands of Santo and Malekula.
- *IPLC participation:* On Santo there are provincial agricultural and marine research centres, and adjacent to Santo is the island of Malo which was a recommended site for a case study where the community has codified their customary laws relating to land and natural resources.
- *ABS agreements:* Analysis of biotrade value chains, including kava, tamanu, nangai and noni, for ABS relevance and to support compliance. The companies involved in the value chain are likely to be visited in August 2018 when the US-based intermediary biotrade oil company (Concentrated Aloe Corporation) will be visiting his partners in Vanuatu making this a good opportunity to assist towards establishing an ABS compliant value chain.

Fiji: In-country support for Fiji could be provided alongside a proposed Regional Contract Training workshop in Nadi in August 2018. Proposed Activities:

- *ABS framework:* The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs has administrative procedures for ABS that are not Nagoya compliant, for which support has been requested.
- *ABS agreements and IPLC Participation:* The Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at USP and the Medical Research Institute at Fiji National University (FNU) have both requested follow-up support relating to template agreements for their foreign partners, and for local prior informed consent (PIC) with communities chain.

Cook Islands: Daniel Robinson is planning an in-country visit to Cook Islands for research under the mutually supportive ARC grant, so ABS Initiative support could be provided in a subsequent week in-country. Proposed Activities:

- *ABS framework:* To help further progress ABS procedures and permit systems, analysis of the effects of the Cook Islands TK Act.
- *IPLC participation:* Scoping of BCP interest from communities as well as recognition of custom under the TK Act.
- *ABS agreements:* Follow up analysis of biodiscovery activities relating to the GEF-UNDP national ABS project and the CIMTECH-Koutu Nui Agreement including the related Te Tika activities.

Additional country support can be provided by correspondence upon request from the countries. An additional country visit in coordination with the SPREP Regional ABS Project team will be possible to Solomon Islands, Palau or PNG, depending upon further responses from their NFPs and CNAs, progress on ABS procedures.

1.1 National Institutional and Regulatory ABS Frameworks

Based on the agreed national work packages (see above), tailor-made implementation support and capacity development activities with respect to developing/strengthening national institutional and regulatory ABS frameworks will be conducted in the countries. Apart from the specific support, the following activities will directly contribute to this core process:

Stocktaking of ABS laws, policies and regulations will continue to be undertaken for the broader region in close coordination with the SPREP Regional ABS Project, identifying progress since the ABS Initiative was last in the region (2 years ago). In addition, support for awareness raising materials will continue to be developed and prepared in relevant local languages of Vanuatu (Bislama), Fiji and a third country – potentially PNG or the Solomon Islands where Bislama is widely spoken.

1.2 Effective Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) based on Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) and Comparable Procedures

Specific activities, as agreed in the national work packages (see above), will be supported and implemented in close collaboration with suitable partners in delivery.

1.3 Development of ABS Agreements

Based on the agreed national work packages (see above) and underpinned by experiences generated during the last years, tailor-made implementation support and capacity development activities with respect to negotiating sound and functioning ABS agreements with users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will be conducted in the identified partner countries.

Apart from specific activities to be defined separately for each partner country, the following activities will contribute to this core process:

1.3.1 ABS Contract Training: Nadi, Fiji – 30 July - 24 August 2018 (tbc.)

Lead: Fridtjof-Nansen-Institute (FNI) and SPREP



Financing agreements with SPREP for organising logistics; contracting of trainers with FNI leading workshop and some Australian and NZ experts brought by UNSW.

In order to respond to the increasing demand for this training course, standardized training materials of the **training course on ABS agreements** – successfully piloted in 2014 in Fiji (regional) – have been finalised in close collaboration with FNI. The training course targets ABS Focal Points, representatives of CNAs and other relevant government representatives who are or will be involved in the negotiation and drafting of ABS agreements. Focus is set on substantive matters related to the content of such contracts.

1.3.2 Patent Landscape for Pacific Island Countries

Lead: UNSW



Financing agreement with UNSW

Research including patent landscaping relating to traditional knowledge of medicinal plant species (which could be followed with analysis of other species and uses in following years) for species found in Vanuatu and Cook Islands, followed by other countries in subsequent years will help to inform CNAs about utilisation of genetic resources accessed in their country, identify potential gaps in regulatory regimes and highlight benefit-sharing potentials if appropriate regulatory systems would be in place. This work will also contribute to regional and international discussions about potential solutions such as databases or patent disclosure requirements. In 2018-2019 this research will focus on patent landscaping activities relating to the three countries covered by the ARC grant, case studies based on the research, and establishing relationships with key stakeholders in countries to obtain permissions and permits for further research with Indigenous peoples in later years 2019 onwards.

2 Auxiliary Processes

While activities under the Initiative's core processes focus on the implementation of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol at country level, auxiliary processes are directed at the broader frame in which these national activities are embedded. Auxiliary processes contribute to regional harmonisation and create synergies at the supranational level by

- documenting and disseminating lessons learnt to cooperation countries of the ABS Initiative, and
- developing tools and formats for human capacity development, which will be made available to interested stakeholders worldwide through the ABS Initiative's website and the ABS Clearing-House.

Costs for all auxiliary processes specific to the Pacific region are budgeted in chapter 4 of the workplan. Activities related to auxiliary processes of general relevance are budgeted for in the respective workplan for Africa and therefore listed here without specific detail.

2.1 Regional Harmonisation and Exchange

The following activities are scheduled for 2018/2019:

2.1.1 Participation in relevant (sub-)regional forums

Input and feedback to relevant regional forums will link the national implementation efforts to ABS-related processes at the regional level. Representatives of the ABS team will participate in relevant conferences, meetings, workshops and trade fairs for networking, agenda setting, promoting ABS and the Nagoya Protocol, and gathering relevant information for further capacity development in African countries, such as :

- Relevant regional SCBD, FAO and GEF workshops
- Relevant GEF-funded project workshops and steering committee meetings
- Meetings of the EU ABS Stakeholder Forum

2.2 Interfaces to International Processes

The following activities are scheduled for 2018/2019:

2.2.1 Participation in relevant international forums

Representatives of the ABS team will participate in relevant international conferences, meetings, workshops and trade fairs for networking, agenda setting, promoting ABS and the Nagoya Protocol, and gathering relevant information for further capacity development in ACP countries. So far, the following meetings and events have been identified as relevant for the ABS community:

- Nagoya Protocol-related meetings, especially SBI 2 (July 2018) and COP-MOP 3 (November 2018)
- Other relevant CBD meetings, especially SBSTTA (July 2018) and COP 14 (November 2018)
- SDG HLPF (July 2018), consideration of SDG 15, incl. target 15.6 on ABS
- WIPO IGC Meetings – Geneva, Switzerland
- Vita Foods / In-cosmetics / Cosmetic 360
- UEBT 10th “Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” Conference – Paris, France, 19-20 June 2018
- FAO and ITPGRFA related meetings

2.3 Knowledge Management and Transfer

The ABS Initiative will continue to act as a knowledge broker, reviewing and disseminating lessons learnt at the national, regional and international level and fostering communication and learning among all its stakeholders. As in the past, the Initiative will initiate studies and use its knowledge management tools (such as the website) to compile and disseminate information and knowledge.

2.3.5 Updating the ABS Initiative’s Knowledge Management and Transfer Tools

Lead: ABS Initiative



Further development of the website for documenting processes and experiences in partner countries, highlighting best practices; integrating ABS case documentation

2.3.6 Publication: Lessons learnt from working with BCPs and comparable procedures

Lead: Natural Justice & ABS Initiative



Co-authoring, contributions from UNSW

Based on their 2017 submission to the CBD Secretariat for the Nagoya Protocol review and assessment (available [here](#)), Natural Justice and the ABS Initiative intend to publish an analysis of their experiences with the development of BCPs and other community procedures and their application in ABS.

2.3.7 Contributions of ABS / the Nagoya Protocol to attaining the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs

Lead: ABS Initiative



Staff time for information collection, assessment, editing

In 2016 the ABS Initiative has published policy paper outlining “*How ABS and the Nagoya Protocol contribute to the Sustainable Development Agenda*” which has attracted a lot of attention, programmatically at international level, but also at nationally to frame NP implementation processes. The steering committee and country representatives have requested the ABS initiative to underpin this framework document with concrete examples for learning and communication purposes. Thus, the Initiative, in a collaborative network with key players from business, science, NGO and UN agencies, will compile ABS elements and aspects from collaborative research and business cases on genetic resources that have contributed meaningfully to attaining one or several of the SDGs. First results are envisaged to be presented at SBI 2 and the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs (together with donors to the ABS Initiative and partners such as SCBD, UNCTAD, UNDP, UEBT). A final edited compilation in print and/or online form is planned to be launched at COP 14 / MOP3

2.4 Knowledge Generation for Human Capacity Development (HCD) Tools

In close collaboration with the mentioned partners the ABS Initiative is conceptualising, developing and producing the listed tools. For details refer to the ABS Initiative’s workplan for Africa:

- Concept for blended learning tool on ABS agreements (Lead: ABS Initiative and FNI)
- ABS CEPA materials for IPLCs (Lead: ABS Initiative and Natural Justice)
- ABS Contract Templates (Lead: FNI and ABS Initiative)
- Up-scaling a tool on IT-based application and monitoring system (Lead: ABS Initiative)
- Nagoya Protocol implementation options (Lead: ABS Initiative)
- ABS process simulation (Lead: ABS Initiative and SCBD)

3 Steering and Guiding Processes

3.1 Steering Committee

3.1.1 Joint Regional Steering Committee for the Pacific: tbd.

Lead: SPREP

The Joint Regional Steering Committee will provide guidance to the ABS Initiative and other implementing partners on further implementation-oriented support to the relevant stakeholders in the region and agree upon the work plan and budget for 04/2019-03/2020.

3.1.2 General Assembly; Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt (November 2019, tbc.)

Lead: ABS Initiative

Members of the three regional steering committees of the ABS Initiative, invited experts and the interested public will

- reflect the outcomes of COP-MOP 3,
- exchange experiences on ABS implementation across regions, and
- discuss coherence of ABS capacity development within regions.

This will contribute and enrich the discussion of the SC members regarding their further guidance to the Secretariat of the ABS Initiative.

4 Budget 04/2018 – 03/2019

The budget for implementing the work plan 04/2018 - 03/2019 (see table 1) is structured according to the process landscape of the ABS Initiative. The secretariat costs are subsumed as explained above.

Co-funding contributions are listed where information is available at this stage of planning.

The column 'Costs' indicates the expected costs for the next planning period.

Table 1 - Budget for implementing the Pacific work plan 04/2017 - 03/2018 of the ABS Initiative.

No.	Activity	Country	Costs	Cofunding	ABS Initiative core budget
1	Supporting Partner Countries				
1.1	National Institutional and Regulatory ABS Frameworks				
1.0.1	Flexible budget for country support		14.050		14.050
1.0.2	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Cook Islands	21.250	5.000	16.250
1.0.3	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Fiji	16.425		16.425
1.0.4	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Vanuatu	27.925	6.500	21.425
1.2	Effective Participation of IPLCs				
1.2.1	Development of CEPA materials		9.625		9.625
1.3	Development of ABS Agreements				
1.3.1	Regional contract training	Fiji	55.675		55.675
1.3.2	Regional patent landscape analysis		22.900	10.000	12.900
1	Sub-Total		167.850	21.500	146.350
2	Auxiliary Processes				
2.1	Regional Harmonisation and Exchange				
2.1.1	Participation and inputs to regional fora		1.450		1.450
2	Sub-Total		1.450	0	1.450
Total Costs - Implementation			169.300	21.500	147.800
3	Steering and Guiding Processes				
3.1	Steering Committee				
3.1.1	Joint Regional SC Pacific		2.175		2.175
3.2	Project Management				
0	UNSW: Regional Coordination		10.875		10.875
3	Sub-Total		13.050	0	13.050
Sum			182.350	21.500	160.850
Total overhead costs*					20.911
Project costs					181.761

* overhead costs will be covered by donors as stated in the respective financing agreements