

## Work Plan 2012

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The work plan is based on the Programme Document 2012-2015 and the proposed three year budget for the multi-donor initiative. The work plan is structured in three parts, one for each region (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific), and each part according to the core and support processes which describe the basic areas of intervention of the ABS Initiative (see Programme Document 2012-2015).

At this stage not all activities listed in the work plan are fully funded in the budget for 2012.

### 1 Africa

#### 1.1 Support to ratification

##### Development of the ABS CEPA Guide and African ABS case film

The first edition of the ABS CEPA Guide to support National Focal Points and implementers in ABS related multistakeholder processes will be finalised and launched during a side event at ICNP-2 in April in New Dehli, India.

The 2011 developed animated short video "ABS simply explained" (5 minutes) as well as the early 2012 finalized film "People, Plants and Profit" on three African bioprosopecting cases and the Nagoya Protocol are being used in different African pilot countries to sensitize stakeholder groups for the Nagoya Protocol and it's national implementation. Both products will be available on the website of the Initiative and distributed to Focal Point and multipliers at ICNP-2 in India.

##### Integrating ABS to SCBD organized regional NBSAP workshops

Awareness raising will be supported by integrating ABS into the African regional NBSAP workshop which will be organized by the SCBD from 27 to 29 February 2012 in Addis Ababa, by reflecting the topic in the core agenda of the workshop and/or by adding a specific ABS day which is jointly organized by the SCBD and the Initiative to broaden the understanding of ABS in the relevant government institutions outside the ministries for environment which are usually in charge for CBD implementation.

##### Support for national consultation processes

As a reaction to the high demand raised by African countries technical support will be provided to ABS Focal Points to finalize ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. This support will be provided upon request in a tailor made manner to countries which have started the national ratification process by providing expertise for national stocktaking studies, preparing national consultation meetings with relevant stakeholder groups and/or decision makers etc.

#### 1.2 National / regional implementation

National implementation is at various stages and support processes have been initiated by the ABS Initiative in a number of countries:

- **Benin:** Support for a national consultation process on ABS with the objective to raise awareness, initiate the developmemnt of a national ABS policy and move towards ratification of the NP.
- **Cameroon:** Initial support for the development of a national NTFP approach will be continued and integrated into German bilateral development cooperation (see 1.4). Furthermore, the development of a proposal for a GEF funded project will be backstopped by the ABS Initiative.

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- **Côte d'Ivoire:** Continue supporting the ABS approach for protected areas including the development of an ABS based funding strategy for the the Tai National Park in cooperation with the French National Museum of Natural History (MNHN).
- **Liberia:** Continue supporting the Environmental Protection Agency for the finalization of the draft national ABS bill and subsequent implementation.
- **Malawi:** Backstop the development of a GEF NPIF project proposal of the Environmental Affairs Department together with TreeCrops and facilitate the development of ABS agreements with foreign resources users.

Within the framework of the UNEP/GEF4 African ABS capacity development project, national measures are being supported in Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa.

The possibilities to integrate specific aspects of the varying support processes at national level into bilateral development cooperation programmes of the donors of the ABS Initiative will be explored with the relevant projects and embassies/delegations.

### 1.3 Value chain establishment

#### **Biocultural Community Protocol (BCP) project implemented by the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) and Natural Justice**

The project was designed to assess whether and to which extent Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) can be used as interface between companies and local communities to establish a more balanced relationship between business and resource providers when accessing and utilizing genetic resources. One of the three pilot cases is situated in Madagascar, the other two in Brazil and Peru. A **synthesis workshop** will take place at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss the lessons learned and outline next steps to take for establishing BCPs as link between traditional governance and decision making, formal governance schemes and business requirements for legal certainty.

#### **PPP project implemented by UEBT and PhytoTrade Africa**

The project was designed to build ABS related capacities of the members of the two business associations – in the case of UEBT European users and in the case of PhytoTrade Southern African providers of biological/genetic resources – and to integrate ABS requirements into at least three supply chains of UEBT member companies. A **SADC ABS and Business Workshop** will be organized in July / August bringing together business representatives to present and discuss the interim results as well as to exchange with ABS national focal points of the sub region. A focus will be on defining cornerstones of enabling regulatory frameworks and R&D environments which ensure that “classical” value chains on biological resources can be maintained and that “A&BS” is taking place if utilization of genetic resources happens according to the definition of Nagoya protocol along the valorization chain.

#### **Assessing and identifying ABS related value chains and business opportunities**

A study will be commissioned to assess ABS related business opportunities in the six countries under the UNEP/GEF4 project (see 1.2). First results will be available during the second quarter 2012.

Based on this study, experiences in the past and established contacts with the private sector at least two pilot initiatives will be identified in 2012 for further specific support through the ABS Initiative.

## 1.4 Amplifying ABS processes

### Linking with the GEF and its Implementing Agencies

In order to provide possibilities to scale up national ABS processes supported by the Initiative close working relationships with **UNEP** and the **GEF Secretariat** have been established. With a series of countries (e.g. Morocco, Cameroon, Namibia, Malawi) interfaces for aligning technical support activities by the Initiative and financial support by the GEF through the **NPIF** of **GEF 5** are being discussed and developed.

Initial contacts to the **UNDP implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)** will be continued to further explore how SGP could support ABS capacity development at the local level by providing funding to national and regional NGOs which can provide the necessary support to indigenous and local communities.

### Linking with capacity development processes for the ITPGRFA

Discussions with the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA and the SCBD will be continued to identify and establish possibilities for joint capacity development activities, such as the development of **training modules on food security and ABS** which raise awareness for coordinated approaches when developing national frameworks for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA with a view to ensure transparent procedures for users and providers of genetic resources. Building on the outcomes of the discussions with the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA and the SCBD a **tandem workshop of focal points for the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA** is planned for November (venue tbd.) to discuss challenges for implementing both ABS frameworks at the (sub-)regional and national level. Whether this workshop will have its focus on Africa or cover all ACP countries will be determined later.

### Integrating ABS at the (sub-)regional policy level

In 2011, the African Union Commission (AUC) requested the ABS Initiative to support a “Gap Analysis of the AU Model Law on ABS” vis-à-vis the Nagoya Protocol and other ABS relevant developments at the international level during the last 10 years. This analysis was presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Pan-African ABS Workshop in Limbé, Cameroon, in order to discuss and recommend further steps to implement the recommendation of the study, i.e. the **development of “AU Guidelines for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol at Regional, Sub-regional and National Level”**.

With a view to hand over the responsibility for supporting and organizing the coordination of the African Group in the international ABS processes under the CBD the AUC is proposing the establishment of a **Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC)** with the ABS Initiative outlining the mode of cooperation and respective responsibilities to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities from the ABS Initiative to the AUC in line with its mandate.

The ABS Initiative will continue its efforts to mobilize the **engagement of the economic regional organisations**, such as SADC, ECOWAS and EAC, in ABS policy making especially regarding the implementation of Art. 11 of the Nagoya Protocol on transboundary genetic resources. The ongoing support of the ABS Initiative in the context of the BMZ funded project to the COMIFAC will be continued (see 1.2).

### Integrating ABS in bilateral development cooperation programmes

In the context of German bilateral development cooperation ABS is being integrated in the following programmes:

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- **Cameroon:** Sparked by a multi-stakeholder kick-off meeting in July 2011 (advised by the ABS Initiative, financed by UNEP/GEF) an interministerial process on ABS between the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife was initiated. Supported by the GIZ Project ProPSFE which is liaised with both ministries the ABS value chain potential of different non-timber forest products will be assessed.
- **Morocco:** A national ABS process was initiated by discussions around the 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-African ABS Workshop in Marrakesh in 2011. As a consequence, support for the development of a national ABS framework will be integrated into the GIZ implemented Climate and Biodiversity Project. The ABS Initiative has been requested to participate in the assessment mission which is scheduled for March 2012 and to provide backstopping for the later implementation.
- **Namibia:** As a concrete outcome of the 2010 ABS Business Dialogue Forum in Copenhagen, Denmark, PhytoTrade Africa has proposed to the KfW Development Bank to financially support the development of a regional R&D platform in Namibia for improving research and product development in the provider countries of biological and genetic resources to enable more value creation in the provider countries. A feasibility study has been approved by BMZ to take place during the second quarter of 2012 with the involvement of the ABS Initiative.
- **COMIFAC:** Having successfully supported the development of a regional ABS strategy in the context of the GIZ implemented COMIFAC Support Programme the Initiative will continue to support and backstop the translation of the regional strategy into national ABS implementation programmes in the 10 member countries.
- **Maghreb:** In the context of the regional GIZ implemented SILVAMED programme - covering Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia - the ABS Initiative has been requested to backstop the development of regional ABS approaches for the valorization of NTFPs.

The Secretariat will liaise with the other donors to explore practical approaches for integrating ABS in their bilateral development cooperation programmes which are managed by the respective embassies/delegations.

### 1.5 (Sub-)Regional capacity development and coordination for relevant international processes

#### Dialogue with the private sector

In order to enhance the dialogue and co-operation with the private sector on ABS as well as to contribute to the development of enabling environments for ABS at the national level the following key activities are planned for 2012:

- "Copenhagen 2" – ABS & Business Dialogue between private sector representatives and public institutions from developed and developing countries to identify support possibilities for developing **enabling environments for ABS** (e.g. policy, financial, R&D, partnership conditions).
- **Ongoing exchange** with European private sector companies (Germany, France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, etc.) and associations as well as with (non-) commercial research on ABS and value chain development.

#### ABS and intellectual property rights (IPRs)

After some initial support in the previous years for the coordination of African negotiators in the WIPO IGC process the interlinkage of ABS and IPRs has been extensively addressed through an expert meeting in September 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As an outcome of this meeting the ABS Initiative is planning the following activities:

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- Development of a **checklist and a guide for integrating IPR relevant issues in the PIC processes and MAT negotiations** to be launched at COP 11 in Hyderabad, India. Side events at the WIPO IGC meeting in February 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, and at ICNP-2 in April 2011 in New Delhi, India, will inform the WIPO and ABS negotiators and provide a forum to discuss open questions.
- The possibility to establish a **joint training course on ABS and IPR** at the Kenya Intellectual Property Office in Nairobi will be explored.
- **Three training courses for ABS National Focal Points** on the basics of IP instruments and challenges of integrating IPR in PIC and MAT will be designed and organised during the second quarter 2012 in English, French and Portuguese (venues tbd.).

### Biocultural Community Protocols

Supported by the ABS Initiative Natural Justice and ETC-COMPAS are implementing the **African BCP Initiative**. Lessons learned from pilot projects in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa (with peer-to-peer exchange with Burkina Faso, Benin and Namibia) will be presented in a synthesis workshop scheduled to take place during the second quarter 2012 in Ghana. Building in addition on the findings of the UEFT/Natural Justice implemented BCP project (see 1.3) next steps will be discussed and agreed.

### Linkages of ABS with protected areas management and forest governance issues

Building on the outcomes of an informal experts' meeting on the conceptual interfaces between ABS, protected areas management and forest governance which took place in December 2011 in Bonn, the Initiative will convene together with other partners an **Expert Meeting on ABS, PA and Forests** during the second quarter 2012 at the Fridtjof-Nansen-Institute (FNI) in Lysaker, Norway (tbc.) to

- discuss the commonalities of and open questions when regulating ownership and use rights of biological/genetic resources,
- discuss in depth the opportunities and challenges for PA management and forest governance when implementing the Nagoya Protocol, and
- elaborate possible solutions for creating governance frameworks at the national level supportive for all three processes.

The EU funded BIOPAMA Project provides an ideal platform to cooperate with **IUCN** and the **Joint Research Center of the European Commission (JRC)** to deepen the understanding of the interface between ABS and protected areas (PA) management and to integrate ABS into the training programmes for PA managers, which are to be developed under the BIOPAMA project.

- The Secretariat of the ABS Initiative will therefore participate in the inception meeting of the PA component of the BIOPAMA Project scheduled for 21 to 23 March 2012 in Gland, Switzerland to continue the initial discussions about collaboration and identification of joint pilot sites.
- Furthermore, it is envisaged to organize a technical coordination meeting back-to-back with the World Conservation Congress in September in Jeju, South Korea.

### Basic ABS training for “young” professionals

In line with the positive feedback from participants on the training courses designed by the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the ABS Initiative, efforts to develop the capacities of young professionals and “newcomers” on ABS and related issues will be continued:

- To facilitate coordination and ensure planning security for both sides the ABS Initiative is seeking a three year agreement with UCT as lead organizer of this Anglophone course. The **third training course** is scheduled to take place after COP 11. Initial discussions with the

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University of Accra as host of the third course will be concluded early 2012. Courses in 2013 and 2014 will then be scheduled for Southern and Eastern Africa again.

- Discussions with the MNHN in Paris, the IEPF and the University of Libreville on a cooperation for the establishment of a similar course (Summer School) for francophone Africa have been initiated.

### Developing relevant management skills

Triggered by the positive feedback and numerous requests the **training course “Management of Multistakeholder Processes”** will be repeated in English and French most probably during Juli and August. Target group are government officials in charge for national implementation of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol.

### General guidance to the ABS Initiative

As a successfully established format, the **7<sup>th</sup> Pan-African ABS Workshop** will provide a forum to present and discuss the outcomes of the various activities with a broad range of stakeholders and to provide further guidance for the support processes at the various levels by the Initiative. Due to the heavy schedule of international meetings this year (with the World Conservation Congress of IUCN in September 2012 and COP 11 in October 2012) the pan-african workshop and the next regular meeting of the **Steering Committee of the ABS Initiative** are scheduled to take place in early 2013 (venue tbd.)

### Training for Indigenous and Local Communities

A combined **training on Intellectual Property Rights** and a **preparatory meeting for COP 11** focused on ABS and traditional knowledge for Indigenous and Local Communities will be organized in close cooperation with the African Indigenous Information Network and other ILC partners in Juli or August 2011 (venue tbd.).

### Coordination for relevant international processes

As requested by numerous negotiators of the African Group the ABS Initiative will continue to support in close collaboration with the AUC (see 1.4) the coordination process in the run-up to the relevant meetings in the CBD process. The following meetings are planned:

- A two day coordination meeting at 28 and 29 June in New Dehli, India, prior to ICNP 2.
- A one or two day coordination meeting in Hyderabad, India, prior to COP 11.

## 2 Caribbean

### 2.1 Support to ratification

#### Integrating ABS to SCBD organized regional NBASP workshops

Awareness raising will be supported by integrating ABS into the Caribbean regional NBSAP workshop which will be organized by the SCBD during the second quarter of 2012, by reflecting the topic in the core agenda of the workshop and organizing a three or four day regional ABS workshop (see 2.3) back-to-back with the NBSAP workshop to broaden the understanding of ABS in the relevant government institutions outside the ministries for environment which are key for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the CBD Aichi targets .

## 2.2 National implementation

National implementation in the Caribbean states, consisting of the continental shelf countries with huge rainforest ecosystems and the of the islands countries with very particular marine and agrobiodiversity is at various stages. A first analysis of the current regulatory approaches and policies relevant for ABS - including the consideration of TK and ILC rights – reveals a huge potential for peer to peer based capacity development in the region. On this basis initial contacts with national authorities as well as with the CARICOM Secretariat have been established to initiate piloting country support to ABS implementation in a regionally balanced manner.

- Shelf countries: In **Guyana**, host country of the CARICOM secretariat, it is foreseen to support the Nature Protection Agency in updating the draft ABS legislation to the requirements of the NP while bringing it in line with the Amerindian ILC Land Right Act and integrating it in the national low carbon development strategy. Partnerships for promoting ABS in Guyana are currently being developed with KfW Development Bank (financial support to PA management), Conservation International (support to ILC in PA management) and IUCN (UNEP/GEF 4 - ABS support programme for Latin America / Caribbean).
- Island countries: With a preliminary focus on supporting harmonized implementation of the NP with other international treaties such as the ITPGRFA and established (free) trade and GR exchange agreements working relations have been established with the governments of **Grenada, St. Lucia and the Bahamas**. There, particular capacity development support has been identified also in the field of detecting and regulating marine bioprospection.
- **CARICOM**: With a view to promote the agenda setting of ABS in the national policy processes of it's the member states the CARICOM Secretariat has offered it's cooperation to the ABS initiative. Joint information and capacity development activities in the context of the Caribbean Biotech Strategy and the 2012 environmental minister's meeting are planned as well as a possible formalization of the cooperation in the context of a MoU.

## 2.3 (Sub-)Regional capacity development and coordination for relevant international processes

A regional **Kick-off ABS Workshop** is planned for the second quarter 2012 back-to-back with the SCBD organized regional ABS Workshop (venue tbd.). Objectives of this multistakeholder workshop will be to

- further assess the status of ABS implementation in the region,
- discuss the role of regional organizations,
- explore the linkages to relevant capacity development programmes of other donors, such as the GEF, and to the EU funded BIOPAMA programme,
- define a roadmap for further support by the ABS Initiative, and to
- establish the the regional Steering Committee / Sub-Committee governing the ABS Initiative.

## 3 Pacific

The Australian Government committed parallel funding amounting to 295,000 AUD (appr. 245,000 EUR) for 2012 to the activities of the ABS Initiative in the Pacific.

### 3.1 Support to ratification

#### Integrating ABS to SCBD organized regional NBASP workshops

Awareness raising will be supported by integrating ABS into the Pacific regional NBSAP workshop which will be organized by the SCBD during the second quarter of 2012, by reflecting the topic in the

core agenda of the workshop and organizing a three or four day regional ABS workshop (see **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**) back-to-back with the NBSAP workshop to broaden the understanding of ABS in the relevant government institutions outside the ministries for environment which are usually in charge for CBD implementation.

### 3.2 National implementation

A **stock taking study** of existing ABS relevant national regulatory frameworks **including an institutional gap analysis** with a focus on Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu will be commissioned in order to provide a basis for the further analysis of ABS related capacity development needs. First results will be available for the Pacific Follow up ABS workshop (see 3.5).

### 3.3 Value chain establishment

**Case studies** have been commissioned to the Institute of Environmental Studies of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) to analyse existing bioprospecting and biotrade (with potentially ongoing utilization of genetic resources according to the Nagoya Protocol) activities including cases such as:

- Cook Islands Medical Technologies (CIMTECH) and Koutu Nui agreement.
- International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG) and the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)
- ICBG and the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji.
- US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Coral Reef Research Foundation (CRRF), Palau.

First results will be available for the Pacific Follow up ABS workshop (see 3.5).

### 3.4 Amplifying ABS processes

Three regional organisations are relevant for ABS implementation in the Pacific:

- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (**SPREP**), headquarter in Apia, Samoa – in charge for CBD implementation.
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (**SPC**), headquarter in Suva, Fiji – in charge for agriculture, forestry and fisheries and runs a regional gene bank, the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT).
- Pacific Island Forum (**PIF**), headquarter in Noumea, New Caledonia (French Territory) – in charge for political and economic coordination and has developed a Traditional Biological Knowledge, Innovations and Practices Model Law.

SPREP, being the focal organisation of the BIOPAMA project and in charge for supporting CBD implementation in the region, will be the key institution for collaboration with the ABS Initiative. Possibilities to place a coordinator/liasion person for ABS related matters in SPREP will be further explored.

Working relations with the relevant departments of SPC and PIF will be established.

### 3.5 (Sub-)Regional capacity development and coordination for relevant international processes

A regional **Kick-off ABS Workshop**, co-funded by the Government of Australia and hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in Apia, Samoa, is planned for the third week of March 2012 . Objectives of this multistakeholder workshop will be to

- share information about trends in biodiversity based research and development,



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- discuss national approaches taken to implement the Nagoya Protocol and the role of regional organizations in ABS implementation,
- discuss Pacific perspectives on the agenda points of ICNP 2,
- establish the regional Steering Committee / Sub-Committee governing the ABS Initiative.

A regional **Follow-up ABS Workshop** is planned for the second quarter 2012 back-to-back with the SCBD organized regional ABS Workshop (venue tbd.). Objectives of this multistakeholder workshop will be to

- present and discuss the findings of the case study (see 3.3) and the stock taking study (see 3.2),
- explore the linkages to relevant capacity development programmes of other donors, such as the GEF, and to the EU funded BIOPAMA programme, and to
- define a roadmap for further support by the ABS Initiative.

### Oceania Biodiscovery Forum (Australia)

A further workshop and conference is scheduled for November 2012, in conjunction with the planned 3<sup>rd</sup> National Biodiscovery Forum which is organised by the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC). It is planned to expand the existing Forum format to initiate a new, regional **Oceania Biodiscovery Forum**. This expansion will be funded by the ABS Initiative building on SEWPAC funding expected to be allocated for the National Biodiscovery Forum. The inaugural Oceania Biodiscovery Forum would invite and fund participation of ABS stakeholders from across the region, and include a third 3 day workshop on Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, focusing on the finalisation of a regional action plan for implementation. The 'Oceania Biodiscovery Forum' will be anticipated to constitute a regular regional event in future years, subject to availability of funding.

## 4 Supra-regional: Africa, Caribbean and Pacific

The ABS initiative has been requested by the Secretariat of the CBD to present its activities and share selected lessons learnt of its work with ABS focal points and other institution involved in ABS capacity building (UNU, IUCN, UNEP, GEFSec, etc.) at a 2 Day **Global Capacity Building Workshop on ABS prior to ICNP 2** in India.

The Initiative will co-organize several ABS related events at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress** in September in Jeju – a workshop on the interfaces between ABS and protected areas was submitted by the BIOPAMA Partners, the Initiative was asked to co-host a conservation campus on ABS Implementation with the IUCN Environmental Law Center.

Topics and partners for **side events at COP 11** in October in Hyderabad are to be determined.

With the establishment of the new governance structure of the ABS Initiative, a **General Meeting of the three Regional Steering Committees (RSC)** will be organized during COP 11 in Hyderabad. Venue and topics will be determined in due time in consultation with the RSC members.

**Knowledge management through the website** of the ABS Initiative ([www.abs-initiative.info](http://www.abs-initiative.info)) will be improved and expanded to make workshop results and presentations as well as studies and background papers, which have been produced during the last year on ABS and related matters easier accessible. For that purpose topic oriented pages will be designed providing links to relevant documents on the Initiative's and its partners' websites. Furthermore, new communication tools will be tested for facilitating the information exchange among stakeholders using the internet.