

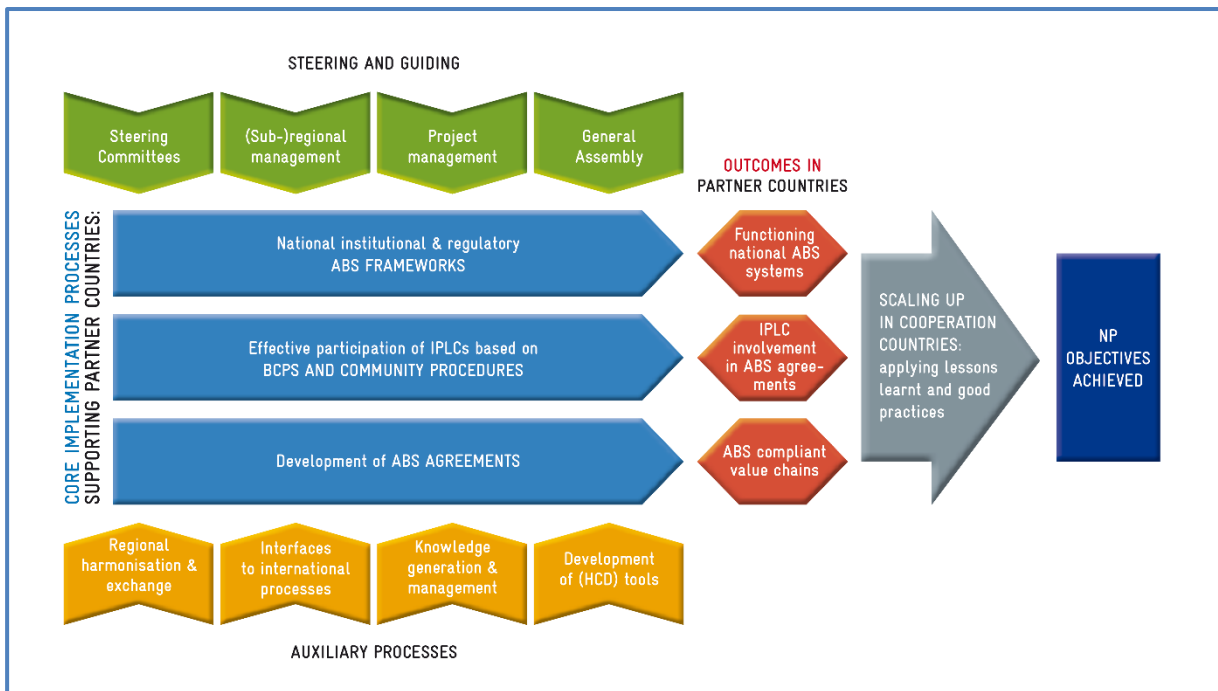


## Pacific Work Plan and Operational Budget 08/2017-03/2018

- 08.08.2017 -

This work plan is based on the ABS Initiative's Programme Document 2012-2015, the available budget for the Pacific region and the outcomes of and 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 will be executed by the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The workshop took place from 26-30 June 2017 in Apia, Samoa, bringing together delegates from 9 Pacific islands states.

The structure of the ABS Initiative workplans follows the structure of the intervention logic established in the Programme Document 2015-2020:



### 1. Core Implementation Processes: Supporting Partner Countries

During the above mentioned inception workshop delegates from Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Vanuatu approached the ABS Initiative with concrete support requests to further improve their partial ABS frameworks and in-country activities. Planned activities will contribute to the three core process in varying degrees in the three countries. Country visits to Fiji and Vanuatu are planned for November 2017, and to PNG for February 2018.

Stocktaking of ABS laws, policies and regulations will be undertaken in close coordination with the SRPEP Regional ABS Project, identifying progress since the ABS Initiative was last in the region (2 years ago). In addition awareness raising materials will be developed and prepared in relevant local languages of the three countries.

Fiji acceded to the Nagoya Protocol in October 2014 and has undertaken a number of analyses and activities towards implementation. Fiji does not yet have specific ABS regulations. Already in 1997 Fiji

drafted an ABS policy, which had met CBD requirements but has not yet been formally enacted. It is expected that this would be the basis of the formal ABS legislation in the country, however it would need to be modified to ensure Nagoya Protocol compliance. Fiji has a permit process that operates through the Fiji Department of Environment (<https://doefiji.wordpress.com>). The director of the department is also the CBD/ABS National Focal Point; a Competent National Authority is not specified. Permit applications for R&D that involve local communities require further approvals from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (Indigenous Affairs).

Proposed activities:

- Stocktaking and analysis of the draft ABS Policy as well as associated laws and regulations to identify the most viable opportunity of developing ABS regulations and improving permit processes - => *ABS framework*
- Preliminary analysis of biotrade activities and potential ABS value chains - => *ABS agreements*.
- Upon request provision of capacity building and expertise during the final phase of the GEF/UNDP ABS Project executed by the Department of Environment. This project involves the US-funded International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG) conducting biodiversity research with the University of South Pacific (USP) in Fiji since the 1990s. An analysis of the current state-of-play and Nagoya compliance issues will be undertaken - => *ABS agreements*.

**PNG** made significant progress towards developing an ABS system during the last 10 years. Permit systems were developed and a draft PINBIO Act (2008) was developed by researchers at the University of PNG involved in the ICBG-Utah project (ongoing). However, prior to the Nagoya Protocol these were extremely cumbersome processes, and did not sufficiently involve the Department of Environment. Various agencies are involved in the regulation of GRs and permits, but there has currently been insufficient coordination.

Proposed activities:

- Assistance with the development of a consistent ABS policy framework - => *ABS framework*.
- Support regarding coordination and streamlining of multiple permit systems - => *ABS framework*.
- Support for the establishment of a National Focal Point and Competent National Authorities for ABS - => *ABS framework*.
- Preliminary analysis of biotrade activities and potential ABS value chains - => *ABS agreements*.

**Vanuatu** ratified the Nagoya Protocol in July 2014. The ABS permit process is managed by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation and if there is associated TK also through Vanuatu Cultural Centre (*Vanuatu Kultural Senta*, VKS). The application form is available at <http://mol.gov.vu/index.php/en/forms/188-environment-and-conservation-forms>. At an ABS Initiative and UNSW supported workshop in 2015, the participants and experts identified several key areas for improvement in Nagoya implementation, which were reiterated recently by the National Focal Point.

Proposed activities:

- Advice for improving the PIC process and the coordination of the many departments that deal with GRs, including by a flow chart/process, with the aim to have e.g. clearer ToRs for the National Biodiversity Council - => *ABS framework*.
- Support for improving the research application forms and permit documents - => *ABS framework*.
- Support to reviewing some existing laws and starting the development of bioprospecting regulations - => *ABS framework*.
- Support for raising ABS awareness and community protocol development in line with the UNDP-GEF Strategic Biodiversity SGP on ABS - => *IPLC participation*.

- Assistance for the development of awareness raising materials in a local language - => *IPLC participation*.
- Support for developing model MAT for current and future biotrade and biodiscovery activities - => *ABS agreements*.
- Support for analysing a compiled list of biotrade activities and assessing the possibility of support to develop ABS compliant value chains, e.g. through a biotrade facility at Malekula, producing extracts of tamanu (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), coconut and other oils - => *ABS agreements*.

In addition to the country specific work research activities including a patent analysis and mapping of Pacific genetic resources (GRs) with associated traditional knowledge (TK) will be undertaken by UNSW with funding support by the ABS Initiative. This will provide detailed background data on commercial activities relating to GRs and TK of potential Pacific origin including patent volumes, specific industry sectors and technologies, countries involved in R&D, and specific patents or case studies of concern. This will help to identify biotrade activities of relevance for potential ABS-compliant value chains and opportunities for mutually agreed terms (MAT) contracts.

## 2. Auxiliary Processes

While activities under the Initiative's core processes will focus on the implementation of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol at *country* level, its auxiliary processes will be 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.

### 2.1 Regional Harmonisation and Exchange

In order to support regional harmonisation and exchange of experiences for ABS, the ABS Initiative will continue to offer training and workshop formats for a region-wide audience. At this stage of planning it seems appropriate to plan a joint regional workshop for August/September 2018 together with the SPREP Regional ABS Project to take stock of Nagoya Protocol implementation in Pacific island states, involving relevant stakeholders, such as local communities, researchers and private sector for share experiences and discussing the way forward. Furthermore, such timing of the workshop allows to reflect on the draft decisions forwarded by SBI 2 to CBD COP 14 and NP MOP 3 to be held in November 2018 in Egypt.

Holding such regional workshop at the USP campus in Fiji or Vanuatu allows involving an important regional partner organisation in the mainstreaming of ABS processes and awareness. In addition the workshop could possibly be co-funded by UNSW, which has a strategic partnership with USP.

### 2.2 Interfaces to International Processes

The national implementation of ABS is framed and informed by processes and institutions at the international level – and vice versa. Acting as an interface between national activities in partner countries and relevant international forums and processes, 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 ACP countries. Costs are budgeted as part of the Africa related activities of the ABS Initiative.

So far, the following meetings and events have been identified as relevant for the ABS community within the timeframe of this workplan:

- Nagoya Protocol related meetings
- Other relevant CBD meetings
- WIPO IGC Meetings – Geneva, Switzerland
- FAO- and ITPGRFA-related meetings
- ILRI workshops and meetings
- Cosmetic Valley – Paris, France, October 2017
- Meetings of the EU ABS Coordination Forum

### 2.3 Knowledge Management and Transfer

The ABS Initiative continues 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 project will initiate studies and use its knowledge management tools (such as the website) to compile and disseminate information and knowledge. All tools and materials developed by the ABS Initiative will also be made available through the ABS-CH.

### 2.4 Knowledge Generation for Human Capacity Development (HCD) Tools

In order to broaden the pool of experts and disseminators of knowledge in the field of ABS, the Initiative continues to update existing and develop new formats of capacity development. As the Initiative is targeting partner countries, communication and knowledge tools and channels will also be developed for the national and local level, tailored to partner countries' needs. New media formats will be explored especially for a local context (e.g. community radio, theatre, materials in local languages etc.) Possibilities for regional and global communication approaches and activities will be explored in cooperation with the SCBD. All tools and materials developed by the ABS Initiative will also be made available through the ABS-CH.

Conceptualization and development of specific tools will take place and therefore be budgeted as part of the ABS Initiative's regional programme for Africa. During 2017 it is planned to develop a concept for a **"Blended learning tool on ABS agreements"** in close partnership with the Fridtjof-Nansen-Institute.

## 3. Steering and Guiding Processes

### 3.1 Steering Committee

Considering the more or less parallel start of the SPREP executed Regional ABS Project and re-engagement of the ABS Initiative based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of ACP/EU funding participants of the above mentioned inception workshop decided to constitute **one steering committee for both projects** allowing synergetic and efficient planning of activities which supplement each other.

Members of the Joint Regional Steering Committee (JRSC) are relevant donors, executing agencies, and a country representative of the each of the three Pacific sub-regions (Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia). The JRSC will convene at least twice a year with ideally one physical meeting if budgets of the two projects allow. Immediate tasks:

- SPREP is taking the lead to finalise the ToR for the JRSC based on the discussions and inputs during the initial meeting after the inception workshop in Apia.
- It might be feasible to schedule a physical JRSC meeting back-to-back with the foreseen regional workshop during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2018.

### 3.2 Project Management

The Secretariat of the ABS Initiative is tasked with the implementation of the work plan and monitoring progress towards achieving the agreed indicators in the [Programme Document 2015-2020](#) of the ABS Initiative. Major tasks include but are not limited to

- Ensuring sufficient funding support by donors
- Identifying and tapping potential co-funding opportunities
- Ensuring up-to-date knowledge management
- Conceptualising and developing appropriate knowledge transfer methods and tools
- Conceptualising and developing stakeholder specific awareness raising tools

Based on the challenge of managing and guiding ABS capacity development in the Pacific during the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of ACP/EU support from 2011-2015, Associate Professor Daniel Robinson of the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia will support the management of the ABS Initiative in managing and conceptualizing the ABS Initiative's support to Pacific island states. To that end GIZ will conclude a financing agreement with UNSW.

#### 4. Operational Budget 08/20147 – 03/2018

No.	Activity	Country	Costs	Cofunding
<b>1</b>	<b>Supporting Partner Countries</b>			
<b>1.1</b>	<b>National Institutional and Regulatory ABS Frameworks</b>			
	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Fiji	18.827	
	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	PNG	10.465	
	Ongoing processes, roadmap & implement.	Vanuatu	18.827	
	Flexible budget for country support			
<b>1.2</b>	<b>IPLC participation</b>			
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Development of ABS Agreements</b>			
	Patent analysis (UNSW)		7.250	
<b>1</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>55.369</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Auxiliary Processes</b>			
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Regional Harmonisation and Exchange</b>			
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Interfaces to International Processes</b>			
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Knowledge Management and Transfer</b>			
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Knowledge Generation for HCD Tools</b>			
	CEPA materials in local languages		6.000	
<b>2</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>6.000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Costs - Implementation</b>			<b>61.369</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Steering and Guiding Processes</b>			
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Steering Committee</b>			
	Joint Regional Steering Committee		1.661	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Project Management</b>			
	Secretariat Cost - Management		10.058	
<b>3</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>11.719</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sum</b>			<b>73.088</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total overhead costs*</b>			<b>9.501</b>	
<b>Project costs</b>			<b>82.589</b>	

\* overhead costs will be charged to donors as stated in the respective financing agreements