



UNDP-GEF GLOBAL ABS PROJECT
**"Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities
to implement the Nagoya Protocol"**

**REPORT: REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA, ASIA/PACIFIC, AND
CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE AND ARAB STATES**

Background

A regional workshop was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, at the UNDP's Regional Hub in İstanbul, Turkey, as part of the activities for the final preparation of the UNDP-GEF Global Project "Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol." The workshop was attended by representatives of the governments of the following countries: Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa (Africa Region); Albania, Belarus, Jordan, Kazakhstan; Sudan Tajikistan (Central/Eastern Europe and Arab States); India, Mongolia, Myanmar (Asia Pacific region). The workshop was also attended by the Global Project Team including a global and regional consultants as well by a representative of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- a) Share work plans agreed upon by the participating countries and identify potential complementarities and synergies between countries.
- b) Identify potential implementation challenges and solutions as well as opportunities for improved implementation of the project.
- c) Discuss options to develop a community of practice on ABS to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge at the regional and global levels, including possibilities of regional actions.
- d) Report on the next steps for the submission of the project proposal (Prodoc) to the GEF and approval of the Global Project.

Agenda

The workshop agenda is attached to this report.

The presentations made during the workshop are available at:

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B50TczeW1yojYTdKN25nNkVwZk0&usp=sharing_eid&ts=56362bbf

Welcoming remarks, introductions and workshop methodology

The workshop began with welcoming remarks Rastislav Vrbensky, Manager of the Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS, UNDP. This was followed by a brief round of introductions of the workshop participants where each participant was invited to introduce themselves and to state their respective roles and involvement during the project development phase.

Further to this, Mr. Santiago Carrizosa, UNDP Global Adviser on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) introduced the agenda and workshop methodology to participants. The agenda and proposed methodology were validated and approved by participants as introduced.

Community of Practice and South-South Cooperation for the Global ABS Project

Mr. Carrizosa, settled, in a brief presentation, the meaning and purpose of a “community of practice” and “South-South cooperation” in the context of the present project, as the basis for further discussions during the workshop, in particular on how to build and how to use such tools in an effective way within this project.

Countries’ work plans and break out groups

Each country was invited to share information on the state of play of ABS implementation in their countries and the types of activities planned in relation to the implementation of the project. Each participant was asked to focus their presentation on activities that relate to the implementation of the three components of the project in view of highlighting the key elements of the countries’ work plans for the implementation of the project. A set of similar actions and priorities were highlighted during the various presentations. These include *inter alia*, legal support for the development/reinforcement of ABS legal and regulatory frameworks and for the negotiation of Mutually Agreed Terms (MATs), capacity building and public awareness at all levels (government officials, industry, academic sector, indigenous peoples and local communities), support towards the development of bio cultural and community protocols. The session also provided an opportunity to discuss some possible common areas for capacity building and options that for enhancing cooperation and exchange of information between countries in the implementation of the project.

Further to this, participants were divided into two break-out groups to share information and exchange experiences on the following issues

1. Challenges, opportunities, and actions for project implementation.
2. Identification of options and opportunities for establishing synergies and cooperation at the regional level.

3. Identification of activities for a community of practice on ABS to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge at the regional and global levels.

The first group (Group 1) included representatives from the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions and the second group (Group 2) brought together representatives from the Central/ Eastern Europe and Arab States regions.

Outcomes of discussions on Challenges, Opportunities Actions for project implementation

The outcomes of the discussions in each group are respectively attached to this report as Annex 1 (Group 1) and Annex 2 (Group 2)

Opportunities for establishing synergies and cooperation at the regional level

The Groups identified the the following as issues and activities that could best advanced through regional cooperation

- Identification and use of relevant existing regional intergovernmental mechanisms
- Development of regional technical guidance framework
- Partnership programs to support regional initiatives
- Development of materials in certain languages (Russian, Arabic)
- Knowledge sharing platforms (hubs)
- Creation of regional roster of experts

Possible activities and features of a community of practices on ABS

In relation to the item on identification of activities for community of practices on ABS, the participants identified certain issues that could best addressed through this forum. These include among others:

- Access to a centralized hub for legal support
- Access to adaptation and mitigation technologies
- Development of a document for resource mobilization
- Development of a common glossary and criteria

The discussions then focused on the need to identify potential activities taking into account the different stages that countries are in relation to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In this regard, it was concluded that the community of practice could bring together countries to share their experiences based on their respective state and progress made towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. It was further determined that the following 3 categories provide a good overview of where countries are in relation to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

1. Countries that have ABS legislative and/or administrative policy measures in place
2. Countries that have initiated national processes towards developing ABS legislative and/or administrative policy measures to meet the obligations under the Nagoya Protocol
3. Countries where there are no measures in place and where specific actions in this regard are yet to be initiated

Current status of ProDoc preparation process and next steps.

Benjamin Vivas, the consultant in charge of preparing the Pro-doc and CEO Endorsement explained where the process stand and what the next steps will be. The consultant explained that he will now go through the reports of the regional consultants and bring it all together in one document which will be quite a challenge considering that this is a global project covering 25 countries in 4 regions in addition to having built in regional components. The consultant explained that the Project Document will need to be submitted to the GEF by the end of November of 2015.

Comments and questions from participants focused on co-financing letters, content, language, timelines, the difference between cash and in kind co-finance, state of the process in each country, next steps, etc. It was emphasized that the CEO Endorsement Request cannot be submitted to GEF without the cofinancing letters; thus these should be sent to UNDP as soon possible.

Closure of the workshop

Finally, Mr. Carrizosa closed the workshop by thanking all the participants for their active participation and by noting that this had been a very successful workshop with good outcomes.

Annex 1. Discussion outcomes: Group 1

The following provides a summary of the challenges, opportunities and possible actions identified by Group 1 (Africa and Asia Pacific) in relation to the project implementation.

Challenges	Opportunities	Actions
The coordination of ABS initiatives at the national level can become a challenge: there is a need to have a central person to foster the necessary synergies and to ensure coordination among the various initiatives in view of attaining the desired impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are ABS focal points in almost all countries ▪ ABS focal points can play a central role as to coordinating all national ABS initiatives in view of ensuring complementarity and mutually supportiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve ABS focal points in the process of implementation ▪ Make sure that there is dialogue between all actors involved or likely to be involved or interested in national ABS implementation National ABS focal points and GEF operation focal points (who at least have all information about in-country GEF projects)
The differentiation between Biotrade and ABS is a key challenge. Where Biotrade starts and ends and where ABS begins is difficult to delineate “from a technical standpoint”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are working within a clear framework: The Nagoya Protocol provides a clear definition of utilization. This definition circumscribes the types of utilization that constitute ABS and those that fall outside of the ambit envisaged under this definition. ▪ Guidelines such as the African Union Commission Strategic and Practical for the coordinated implementation on the Nagoya Protocol in Africa offer some useful guidance and orientations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define the scope of application in legislative, administrative and policy measures on ABS drawing on the definition of utilization of the Nagoya Protocol. ▪ Identify the types of resources in your country and their corresponding potential utilizations to determine if these fall within the ambit of the definition of utilization set out in the NP ▪ Make sure that what constitutes utilization is clearly articulated in MATs
Lack of awareness on ABS regulatory process on the part of the private and scientific sectors remains a key challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is good amount of guidelines out there. ▪ At the global level there 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage/involve business associations/ chamber of commerce, private research

	<p>are the decisions of COP MOP that provide guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private sector: business associations/chambers of commerce are often keen to be involved ▪ Academic sector: universities, research centers and government institutions in charge of research, science and technology are often good allies 	<p>organizations, universities, national academic research entities and relevant government institutions</p>
<p>Access to indigenous and local communities is often a challenge: the timeframe for raising the awareness of ILCs can be long and can outlive the lifetime of a given project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Nagoya Protocol enshrines a given set of rights for ILCs and calls on governments to take into consideration indigenous and local communities' customary laws, community protocols and procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reach out to some communities first (i.e. pilot approach) to determine if initial approach can be replicated or where applicable changed when targeting other communities ▪ Ensure that basic information and awareness raising/ outreach tools are available in local languages
<p>The lack of trust between ILCs and policy makers</p>	<p>We need to tap into indigenous group organizations, identify the right process to engage ICLs, capture existing methods and derive lessons learned and how best to leverage these.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve ILCs in national decision making processes (i.e., as part of the decisions making process of National Competent Authorities)

<p>The lack of exit strategy</p>	<p>Public funding is often short term: ABS implementation provide an opportunity to build long lasting partnerships that can make the project implementation more sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify sustainability mechanisms through innovative partnerships▪ Make sure that these partnerships are given effect in sound mutually agreed terms and contracts.
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Annex 2. Discussion outcomes: Group 2

The following provides a summary of the challenges, opportunities and possible actions identified by Group 2 (Central/ Eastern Europe and Arab States regions) in relation to the project implementation.

Challenges (for project implementation):

- Lack of awareness at all levels (decision makers, institutions and communities)
- Limited number of experts (national and regional levels- Roaster of experts)
- Knowledge restricted to NP NFP (central level not local level)
- Lack of regional coordination (or even communication) at different levels (bureaucracy, civil society, local communities)
- ABS not in the agenda of the intergovernmental mechanisms
- Financial resources
- Lack of information (legal documents and technical guidance) and capacities (skills)
- Engage private sector and different industries
- Climate change and land degradation issues
- Political support (endorsement and enforcement of policies)
- Non-Parties
- Involvement and responsiveness of local communities

Opportunities (for project implementation):

- Interest of stakeholders to be actively involved
- Availability of genetic resources and traditional knowledge
- Revision processes of national and/or sectoral policies/structures (e.g.. NBSAPs)
- Build on existing initiatives (databases, gene banks, etc)
- Economic values of genetic resources and traditional knowledge
- Benefits for biodiversity
- Traditional knowledge consideration on restoration
- Coordination at the regional level (existing intergovernmental mechanism)

Actions (for project implementation):

- Build coherent partnerships with stakeholders (different institutions, private sector and communities)
- Mainstreaming of ABS- promoting coherent approach in all sectors
- National coordination centers
- Foster national ownership of the products of the project
- Resource mobilization (internal, external and innovative)
- International coalition for the implementation of the NP

Annex 3: AGENDA REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA, ASIA/PACIFIC, AND CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE AND ARAB STATES



UNDP-GEF GLOBAL ABS PROJECT

"Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol"

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA, ASIA/PACIFIC, AND CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE AND ARAB STATES

Date: October 27, 2015

Venue: UNDP Regional Hub, Istanbul, Turkey

Objectives:

- a) Share work plans agreed upon by the participating countries and identify potential complementarities and synergies between countries.
- b) Identify potential implementation challenges and solutions as well as opportunities for better implementation of the project.
- c) Discuss activities for a community of practice on ABS to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge at the regional and global levels, including possibilities of regional actions.
- d) Report on the next steps for the submission of the project proposal (ProDoc) to the GEF and approval of the Global Project.

Agenda:

Time	Item	Responsible
8:30-9:00 AM	Registration	
9:00-9:10 AM	Opening remarks and workshop objectives	Rastislav Vrbensky, Manager of the Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS, UNDP
9:10-9:20 AM	Workshop methodology and presentation of the participants	Santiago Carrizosa, ABS Global Advisor, UNDP

9:20-9:30 AM	Community of Practice and South-South Cooperation for the Global ABS Project	Santiago Carrizosa, ABS Global Advisor, UNDP
9:30-10:45 AM	Working Groups: Participants will be assembled into three groups: 1) Africa; 2) Asia-Pacific; and 3) Eastern/Central Europe and Arab States. Each country will present their agreed-upon work plans to the group (15 minutes per country).	Moderators: Regional Consultants, UNDP
10:45-11:00 AM	<i>Coffee break.</i>	
11:00-12:30 PM	Working Groups: Following the presentations each group will discuss the following: 1. Challenges, opportunities, and actions for project implementation. 2. Identification of options and opportunities for establishing synergies and cooperation at the regional level. 3. Identification of activities for a community of practice on ABS to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge at the regional and global levels. Each group will prepare a 15 minute presentation of the results of their discussions on the three points identified above to be delivered in the afternoon session.	Moderators: Regional Consultants, UNDP
12:30-2:00 PM	<i>Lunch.</i>	
2:00-4:00 PM	PLENARY. Presentations: Each of the three groups will deliver a 15 m presentation on the three points discussed before lunch. Following the presentations there will be discussion.	Rapporteurs: Country Representatives Moderator: Santiago Carrizosa and Regional Consultants, UNDP
4:00-4:15 PM	<i>Coffee break.</i>	
4:15-5:15 PM	PLENARY (Cont.)	Rapporteurs: Country Representatives Moderator: Santiago Carrizosa and Regional Consultants, UNDP
5:15-5:45 PM	Current status of the ProDoc preparation process and the next steps.	Benjamin Vivas, UNDP
5:45-6:00 PM	Wrap-up. Closure of the workshop.	Santiago Carrizosa, UNDP