



PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Strategic partners | South African government departments |
| Collaborators | Development finance institutions and biotrade export or trade organisations |
| Implementers | Selected organisations, experts and consultants |

ABIOSA PROJECT TIMING AND FOCUS

The ABioSA project started in 2018 and concludes in October 2021. It works with selected biotrade value chains and plant species, including some which straddle national borders. These species were identified based on criteria including traditional knowledge, ecological

sustainability, market demand, potential for value-adding and job creation, and the participation of SMEs and Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs).

The project welcomes inputs from communities and biotrade businesses.
Please email adrie.elmohamadi@giz.de

The ABS Initiative is funded by



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

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

and implemented by



Adrie el Mohamadi
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GIZ Office South Africa
333 Grosvenor Street
Hatfield Gardens, Block C, Pretoria

T +27 12 423 5900
E adrie.elmohamadi@giz.de
www.abs-initiative.info

Photos: Jonathon Rees/Proof Communication Africa
Design/Layout: Nicolene Louw/Proof Communication Africa
© Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH / February 2018

Responsibility for the content of external websites linked in this publication always lies with their respective publishers.
GIZ expressly dissociates itself from such content. GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

ABS COMPLIANT BIOTRADE IN SOUTH(ERN) AFRICA

Building a high-growth innovative biotrade sector that creates jobs and contributes to sustainable use of biodiversity in South Africa and the region

PROJECT SUMMARY

Name: ABS Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa

Funding Amount: Three million Swiss Francs

Country focus: South Africa (70%) and southern Africa (30%)

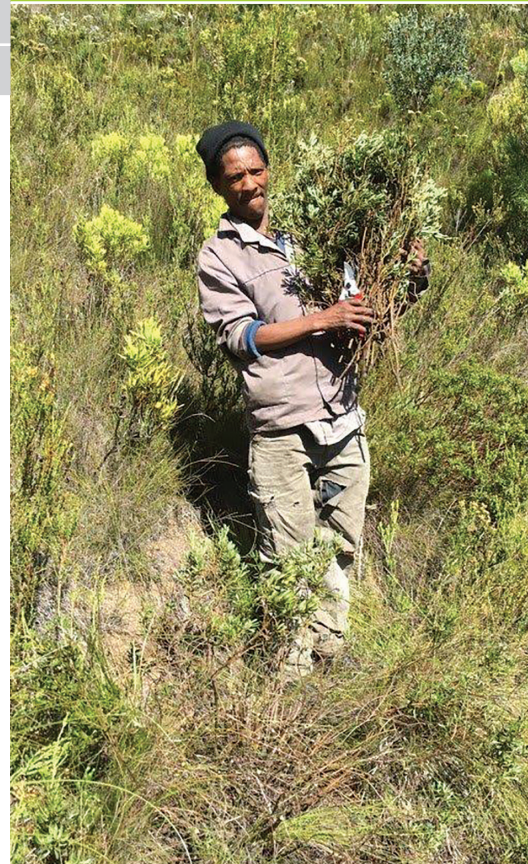
Funded by: Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

Implemented by: GIZ

Management: Access and Benefit-Sharing Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative)

Governance: Project steering & investment committees

2018 to 2021



environment, forestry & fisheries
Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE ABS
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

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

BIOTRADE AND ABS

ABioSA aims



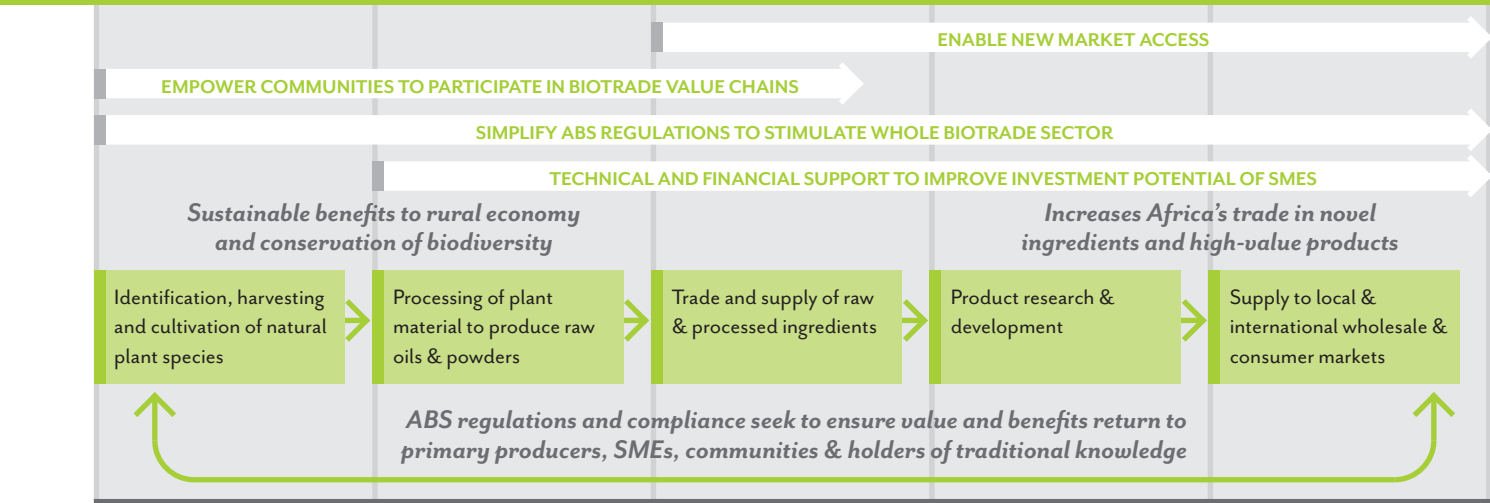
ABioSA's aim is to create a high-growth jobs-rich and innovative biotrade sector that complies with international and domestic ABS regulations. It supports sustainable development goals and contributes to the livelihoods of rural people and the productive use of southern Africa's plant biodiversity. The project aims to create permanent and seasonal jobs in biotrade value chains, while substantially boosting the value

generated from biotrade products from the region. ABioSA aims to prepare small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to become investment ready and access funds that will result in growth of their business and the sector. It also supports SMEs who want to export their products to overcome regulatory hurdles and comply with international and national regulatory requirements, including ABS regulations.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Component 1: Technical assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Overcome regulatory hurdles enabling access to new marketsEmpower community businesses and holders of traditional knowledge to participate effectively in biotrade value chainsImprove the investment readiness of small businesses through financial and business planning support |
| Component 2: Financial assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Support innovation and growth of biotrade SMEs through a dedicated grant funding facility complementing government incentives |
| Component 3: Supporting an enabling regulatory environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Make ABS policy and regulations more practical and accessibleEnable industry best practices to contribute to ABS objectives and development goalsShare and learn from regional and global experiences |

ENHANCING BIOTRADE VALUE CHAINS IN SOUTH(ERN) AFRICA



WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT

The project works closely with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), which leads the SA government's approach to biotrade. This collaboration takes account of existing policy and legislation, such as the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA); and the Bioprospecting Access and Benefit-Sharing (BABS) regulations which govern access to SA's plant resources and ensure communities benefit from their use.

South Africa's National Biodiversity Economy Strategy is a good platform for the development and growth of the biotrade sector. The project supports transformation and key government targets including job creation, empowerment of women and rural development - in SA and the region.

Biotrade is understood as the harvesting, cultivation, processing and trade of products from indigenous plant species for the development of novel food, cosmetic and phytopharmaceutical products for local and international markets.

Biotrade is emerging as a significant industry which sustainably uses wild or cultivated natural resources for social and economic development. It is a high-potential sector which can enhance and conserve biodiversity, build rural economies, empower women and stimulate skills and technology development.

Biotrade combines the traditional knowledge of indigenous people with modern manufacturing and emerging market demands of

consumer economies. This creates the conditions for a robust sector. Southern Africa already has many small biotrade companies and representative trade bodies.

The international Nagoya Protocol on ABS requires the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources.

Current regulations in South Africa define ABS very widely and include many parts of the biotrade.

They require all users along the biotrade value chain to obtain permits, and to reach agreement on sharing of benefits with those who harvest and supply the plant ingredients, and who hold relevant traditional knowledge about indigenous species.

South Africa is the third most biologically diverse country in the world, with more than 21,000 plant species, many of them endemic. It has emerging biotrade value chains of economic importance, some endemic and others stretching across regional borders.

BIOTRADE CHALLENGES IN SOUTH(ERN) AFRICA

| | |
|--|---|
| Complex ABS regulations are regarded as a disincentive to investment and participation in the sector | Building a strong biotrade economy depends on a balance between practical legislation and the ability of communities and businesses to understand and comply with the rules. |
| No coordinated technical or financial assistance for biotrade | Communities on the supply side of biotrade value chains are often poorly resourced and can't effectively engage with industry. Small and medium enterprises (SME) in the sector lack financial management and business planning skills. This limits their investment potential. Current incentives don't match SME needs and are poorly coordinated across departments. |
| Key consumer markets have regulatory hurdles | These non-tariff barriers are designed to ensure food and product safety and protect consumers. But addressing them is too complex and expensive for SMEs to tackle on their own. There is a need for a coordinated approach that benefits many participants in biotrade value chains. |

