



THE ABS
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L'INITIATIVE DE
RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES
POUR L'APA

Report

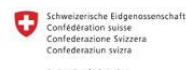
13th Pan-African ABS and Biotrade Workshop

3 to 7 February 2025, Saly, Senegal

Hosted by the
Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (METE)

Organised by the
ABS Capacity Development Initiative and BioInnovation Africa

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Report – 13th Pan-African ABS and Biotrade Workshop, 3 to 7 February 2025, Saly, Senegal



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Executive summary and key recommendations

This summary includes discussions and recommendations based on inputs, case studies and panel discussions at the 13th Pan-African ABS and Biotrade Workshop held from 3 to 7 February 2025 in Saly, Senegal.

It follows the structure of the main workshop report with seven thematic chapters:

- ABS decisions from CBD COP16 and NP MOP 5
- ABS implementation in Africa
- Mainstreaming ABS and biotrade
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships for ABS and biotrade
- Blended finance for biotrade
- Capacity development approaches
- Donor debrief

Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)-related decisions of CBD COP 16/NP MOP 5

The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol was held in Cali, Colombia, in October 2024.

The key ABS-related decisions and recommendations from these meetings are focused on improving benefit-sharing, enhancing participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and strengthening policy coordination.

Countries are encouraged to increase monetary and non-monetary benefits through efficient ABS frameworks; and to support the [Cali Fund](#) and the [Multilateral Mechanism on Digital Sequence Information \(DSI\)](#) by, for example, defining thresholds and contribution rates by COP 17.

It is vital to recognise and integrate African indigenous communities into ABS frameworks, and to strengthen and share benefits from genetic resources, DSI and traditional knowledge.

The representative of the CBD Secretariat encouraged the ABS Initiative to continue its support for CBD Parties and stakeholders.

The representative of the Plant Treaty Secretariat pointed out that the ongoing process of reviewing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) is critical, as this is how countries implement the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). NBSAPs should be multi-sectoral with a comprehensive approach, including livelihoods, economic development, food security and protection of the environment.

The representative of the African Union Commission (AUC) highlighted that improved regional coordination is needed, particularly within Africa, guided by the African Union's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP).

ABS implementation in Africa

Improving ABS implementation in Africa requires greater awareness and promotion, among policy makers and government institutions, of ABS as a tool for income generation.

This would help create political will and secure government funding for developing and implementing national regulatory ABS frameworks.

National ABS funds are beneficial for receiving and monitoring monetary benefits. More efforts are needed to raise awareness and build the capacity of IPLCs, linked to the new Subsidiary Body on [Article 8\(i\)](#) of the CBD.

A key issue is ensuring all relevant information is promptly uploaded to the ABS Clearing-House, as this benefits users. Involving users early in the development of regulatory frameworks can help avoid overly complex or burdensome regulations.

Collaboration between sectors is necessary to ensure coordination and coherence between ABS systems in the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA or Plant Treaty). Given the ongoing negotiation process for the enhancement and broadening of the scope of the Multilateral System (MLS) under the treaty this is of particular importance.

The discussions during the workshop highlighted that Joint decision-making and policy alignment should be promoted between national focal points (NFPs).

Capacity development and information-sharing should improve understanding of enhancements under discussion in the Plant Treaty's multilateral system (MLS).

Dialogue should be facilitated between stakeholders about the negotiations on including DSI in Annex 1 of the Plant Treaty, and structuring payment streams into the Treaty's MLS Benefit-Sharing Fund to ensure national interests are represented.

It is a priority to support the African Union's efforts to establish a unified regional position on MLS enhancements.

Mainstreaming ABS and biotrade

Integrating ABS and biotrade into NBSAPs requires policies to be aligned with national development frameworks, engaging public and private stakeholders, and addressing administrative and financial constraints.

Key challenges include limited funding, complex regulations and lack of stakeholder involvement, highlighting the need for practical frameworks, stronger institutional capacity and positioning ABS as both a conservation tool and an economic opportunity.

Valorisation of biological and genetic resources for the benefit of the providing country offers an opportunity to mainstream biotrade and ABS across multiple sectors and into broader sector strategies, e.g. related to bioeconomy.

Challenges such as inconsistent legal frameworks and limited information require stronger private sector involvement, industry-wide agreements, and integration of conservation efforts into business strategies.

A Whole-of-Government (WoG) and Whole-of-Society (WoS) approach is essential for developing a sustainable value chain, ensuring inclusive participation, strengthening ABS-biotrade linkages, and leveraging the NBSAP review process to align national regulations and implementation.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) for ABS and biotrade

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) are essential for effective ABS and biotrade in Africa. A WoG and WoS approach should be adopted to enhance collaboration, ensuring inclusive participation from governments, private sector, research institutions and IPLCs.

The development of structured Sector Development Plans (SDPs) around specific resources can provide guidance for engagement and regional cooperation.

Regulatory harmonization across regions is necessary to facilitate cross-border ABS implementation. Establishing multi-stakeholder platforms will improve coordination, allowing better information sharing and policy alignment between governments, businesses and local communities. Strengthening compliance mechanisms will ensure more equitable benefit-sharing.

Conservation should be embedded within ABS agreements, linking resource providers to sustainable management practices through legally binding terms. Developing a pan-African resource monitoring system (e.g. on Baobab) would help track resource availability and promote long-term conservation strategies.

Capacity building remains a priority. Expanding training programs and peer-learning exchanges can equip stakeholders with the skills needed for ABS and biotrade implementation.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) should be encouraged to balance commercial interests with equitable benefit-sharing and financial sustainability.

Policymakers and regulators should focus on institutionalizing MSPs, promoting regulatory harmonization, integrating conservation incentives within ABS agreements, and investing in capacity building and data-driven decision-making to ensure long-term sustainability.

Blended finance for biotrade

Blended finance - combining public and private financing instruments - offers a significant opportunity to overcome financing challenges faced by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Policymakers should focus on several strategic actions to facilitate access to finance and foster sustainable biodiversity-based businesses.

Promoting awareness and understanding of blended finance: It is crucial to raise awareness of how blended finance can de-risk investments and attract private sector funding by showcasing data-backed opportunities for investments and development impacts.

Developing guidance materials and training programs will help MSMEs and financial institutions to better understand blended finance structures. Governments and multilateral institutions should be encouraged to engage in these models tailored to biotrade.

Addressing MSME financing barriers: Simplifying eligibility criteria and developing sector-specific financing solutions, such as concessional loans and guarantees, will help make financing more accessible. Policymakers should integrate compliance costs related to ABS regulations into business models e.g. through standardization and sector-wide approaches.

Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: Leveraging public-private partnerships (PPPs) by combining donor funding, private capital and development finance can significantly support MSMEs to build and scale biodiversity-friendly businesses and value chains.

Establishing regional financing mechanisms will provide consistent support. Collaboration with multi- and bilateral development banks and bilateral donors is necessary to create tailored blended finance instruments.

Facilitating MSME formalization and market access: Technical assistance should help informal biotrade businesses to meet regulatory requirements, get formal registration and access financing.

Financial institutions should adopt a more balanced approach, focusing on both risks and opportunities. Supporting market access initiatives is essential for MSMEs, including certifications for key export markets.

Piloting and scaling blended finance instruments: Pilot blended finance initiatives should be tested in Southern Africa where willing institutions have been identified to explore wider regional adoption. The possibility of introducing similar models across Africa should be considered, alongside insurance mechanisms to protect biodiversity businesses from climate risks.

Next steps for policymakers and regulators: Policymakers should focus on developing national and regional blended finance strategies that support an enabling blended finance ecosystem.

This includes engaging with financial institutions to create dedicated instruments, strengthening regulatory frameworks to attract private investment, and facilitating knowledge-sharing and capacity building for MSMEs and relevant stakeholders.

This approach will help ensure sustainable financing for the biotrade sector, allowing MSMEs to thrive while contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Capacity development approaches

The Capacity-Building and Development (CB/CD) Action Plan for the Nagoya Protocol (NP) was developed as a key outcome of COP 16/MOP 5, aligned with Target 13 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

The plan offers a flexible framework to help parties implement their NBSAPs, focusing on inclusive capacity building, regulatory compliance and sustainable biotrade development.

The six outcomes of the of the Nagoya Protocol CB/CD Action Plan:

- *Strengthened capacity to comply with NP obligations:* Emphasizing communication, financing and inclusivity, particularly for IPLCs, women and youth.
- *Enhanced ability to develop and enforce domestic ABS policies:* Addressing national system gaps and challenges.
- *Strengthened capacity to negotiate Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT):* Expanding MAT to include R&D, value chains and benefit-sharing triggers.
- *Strengthened IPLC capacity for NP implementation:* Focusing on youth and women's inclusion.
- *Enhanced capacity for biodiversity-based R&D:* Developing policies and funding for commercializing genetic resources and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
- *Strengthened capacity for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches:* Promoting strategic communication, knowledge-sharing and integrating ABS into educational curricula.

BioInnovation Academy & Capacity building initiatives: The BioInnovation Academy is integral to supporting and institutionalizing capacity development, with training programs in partner countries like South Africa, Cameroon, Madagascar and Namibia.

The academy covers six modules related to environment, business, governance, and social aspects, aligned with the SDGs and GBF. Collaborations with pan-African institutions will ensure long-term integration and institutionalization.

Challenges include ensuring benefits reach the right stakeholders, strengthening IPLC capacity in ABS negotiations and understanding sectoral value chains, as well as enhancing private sector and IPLC engagement.

Policy makers and regulators need to better understand the scope and benefit-sharing mechanisms of international ABS instruments, such as the Plant Treaty, to ensure coherent implementation at national level.

Key messages include:

- Strengthening negotiation skills for ABS agreements
- Promoting inclusive capacity building for IPLCs, women and youth
- Enhancing technology transfer and R&D
- Facilitating strategic knowledge exchange
- Implementing a pan-African approach through the five subregional support centres aligned with continental strategies such as the AU Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Donor debrief

This section outlines recommendations for donors to support ABS, biodiversity valorisation and biotrade in alignment with Goal C and Target 13 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Technological advances, including biotechnology and AI, require support for regulators to apply resource-efficient IT tools for permit applications and monitoring the use of genetic resources.

Revisiting the concept of benefit-sharing is crucial to increase social and political acceptance.

Regional Technical Support Centres (RTSCs) will play a key role in implementing Target 13, documenting best practices, supporting public-private dialogues and developing fair and inclusive negotiation procedures for ABS agreements.

A "whole-of-multilateralism" approach is needed to reduce redundancy between the Nagoya Protocol and the Plant Treaty, balancing national and multilateral interests.

It will also be necessary to invest in capacity development through pan-African organizations and RTSCs.

For ABS and biotrade to succeed, functioning value chains must connect communities, researchers, MSMEs and industries. Donors should focus on supporting regulatory environments that integrate ABS into sectors such as agriculture, intellectual property and research.

Structured policy dialogues are essential for embedding ABS into NBSAPs.

GEF-8 programming provides an opportunity for countries to integrate ABS into their national reports and early action projects. The NP Capacity-Building & Development Action Plan helps strengthen biodiversity-based R&D capacity and encourages Whole-of-Government approaches to implementing the Nagoya Protocol.

Biodiversity valorisation should be a priority for donors, focusing on circular multipurpose approaches to reduce transaction costs, diversify income and generate social benefits.

Public-private partnerships (PPP) should be designed to support long-term R&D investments in biodiversity-based businesses, accounting for long product development cycles.

The case of the Baobab sector in Senegal and southern Africa demonstrates that resource-specific approaches can promote biodiversity conservation, rural employment, and market access for MSMEs. Sector Development Plans (SDPs) should be used to support cross-country resource management and value chain professionalization.

Trust-building between regulators and the private sector is critical to overcoming misconceptions and fostering collaboration. Donor investments should support platforms for public-private dialogues to address market barriers, create enabling business environments, and design ABS procedures.

Finally, RTSCs are positioned to integrate biodiversity-based economies into GBF implementation by providing sector-wide upscaling, facilitating public-private partnerships and enabling knowledge transfer.

Donors should focus on providing financial and technical support to implement a whole-of-society approach in ABS-compliant biotrade, contributing to multiple GBF targets.

These recommendations aim to foster collaboration, inclusivity and sustainable economic development, while promoting biodiversity conservation and the equitable sharing of benefits.

Workshop report

Introduction

The 13th Pan-African ABS and Biotrade Workshop was organised by the multi-donor funded ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the BMZ-funded project BioInnovation Africa. It was organised in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the African Union Commission and the Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (METE).

The ABS Initiative is funded by the Governments of Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Against the background of the ABS- and DSI-related outcomes of CBD COP 16 / NP MOP 5 and the current NBSAP revision processes, one key objective of the workshop was to support public and business partners in developing national and regional approaches to effectively implement Goal C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity [Framework](#) (KMGBF).

This included the consideration of national and regional ABS and sectoral policies as well as capacity needs of public and non-public actors to support the valorisation of biological and genetic resources – as a prerequisite for achieving KMGBF targets, in particular targets 5, 9, 13 and 14.

The [African Baobab Alliance \(ABA\)](#) held its annual conference from 4 to 6 February in Senegal, allowing for joint sessions with the ABS and Biotrade Workshop to discuss practical experiences and challenges related to conservation, sustainable use and ABS compliance.

A field trip to a private baobab conservation area illustrated the challenges for conservation and sustainable use of an iconic tree species with multiple traditional uses and substantial commercial potential as superfood and as cosmetics ingredient. The visit to one of the largest natural ingredient producers in Senegal – [Baobab des Saveurs](#) – showcased the traditional processing of Baobab into products for local use, oil extraction for cosmetic uses, and powder production for a food ingredient.

The workshop, with 22 African countries attending, reflected a Whole-of-Government and a Whole-of-Society approach to ABS and integration into the NBSAP process. It brought together up to 200 participants, comprising of national African ABS-, CBD- and ITPGRFA-focal points, as well as representatives of African and European private sector entities and research organisations, African IPLCs, African regional and UN Organisations and agencies supporting international development cooperation.

Specific topics of the workshop included:

- Identify the most **significant ABS related decisions of CBD COP 16 / NP MOP 5** from an African policy and implementation perspective.
- Take stock and exchange on **ABS implementation** and **support needs** in Africa, focusing on the **Nagoya Protocol** and the **ITPGRFA**.
- Reflect on the status and further develop **mainstreaming approaches for ABS and biotrade** in the current **NBSAP revision** processes at national and regional levels, considering Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approaches, in particular in the context of the GEF Support for NBSAPs Update and 7th National Reports preparation.
- Showcase **success factors and their underlying assumptions necessary** for the dissemination and scaling of **business partnerships of biodiversity-based value chains** and "green" employment in the African context.
- Discuss and share firsthand experiences of an initiative to develop a model for **biotrade blended finance**.
- Share progress on **capacity development approaches** and the **underlying challenges** on the valorisation of biodiversity and prospects for its institutionalization.
- Recognize, based on the Baobab example, **key fields of collaboration between governments and stakeholders** (private sector, research, IPLCs) for **ABS compliant R&D, value chain development and conservation** in Africa.
- Exchange on **elements of success** and upscaling potential of national and international (multistakeholder-) **partnerships to implement Goal C and Target 13** to facilitate increase in benefit-sharing.

Simultaneous interpretation in French and English was available for all plenary sessions of the workshop.

Programme Overview

Mon	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical introduction • Official opening • Initial overview of COP 16 / MOP 5 outcomes
	COP 16 / MOP 5 orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagoya Protocol Capacity Development Framework • NBSAPs as a vehicle to implement the GBF • Reception hosted by UNEP
Tue	ABS Implementation in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status of ABS implementation in Africa • The interface between the Nagoya Protocol and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
	Creating an enabling environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding valorisation • Deep dive: Baobab
Wed	Biotrade and ABS in practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trip to the natural ingredient producer Baobab des Saveurs in Thiès • Baobab fair • Parallel Session: Example of first-hand experiences in developing a model for Biotrade blended finance"
Thu	Public-Private Day – in cooperation with the ABA Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABS, Baobab and Biotrade – regulators' and practitioners' perspectives • Multi-stakeholder partnerships in conservation and sustainable management • Multi-stakeholder partnerships for valorisation and ABS compliance
Fri	Cooperation and collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing partnerships for ABS compliant R&D, value chain development and conservation in Africa
	Reflection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps and milestones • Evaluation • Closure

For more details about the specific agenda points see the full agenda in Annex 1 as well as the list of presentations including links for download in Annex 2 of the report.

Summary of the post-workshop evaluation by participants

The broad majority of participants appreciated the **conference style** of this first Pan-African ABS and Biotrade workshop since Covid, including the broad participation of CBD and Treaty focal points as well as the exchange with members of the African Baobab Alliance.

Participants highlighted in their evaluation that the workshop **effectively brought together regulators/negotiators, private sector, community representatives and civil society from different regions**, with a well-structured agenda and informative panel discussions allowing for the exchange of experiences and facilitating dialogue among various professionals. The agenda was well set and adhered to, ensuring efficient use of time. The combination of plenary and panel sessions provided a complete approach for sharing valid information.

The field trip was highly **valuable** in terms of **knowledge exchange and building connections** between various stakeholders. The trip included visits to different areas, highlighting the entire value chain and providing a comprehensive understanding of the challenges for conservation and sustainable use. The hospitality was greatly appreciated by the participants.

Some participants mentioned that there was not sufficient time for everyone to express themselves and ask questions after every presentation. The French translation was sometimes inadequate, making it difficult for French-speaking participants to understand the information.

Structure of the workshop report

Based on the different and often crosscutting topics discussed during the workshop sessions (for details see the agenda in Annex 1), the workshop **report is structured along seven main themes**:

- ABS related decisions of CBD COP 16 / NP MOP 5
- ABS Implementation in Africa
- Mainstreaming ABS and biotrade
- MSPs / business partnership models
- Blended finance
- Capacity development approaches
- Donor recommendations

ABS Related Decisions of CBD COP 16 / NP MOP 5

A session was designed to inform and update workshop participants about significant ABS related decisions of the CBD COP 16 / NP MOP in Cali, Colombia, during October 2024. This thematic report summarizes key messages of the representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as reflections of the Executive Secretary of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the representative of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Inputs

Secretariat of the CBD, Taukondjo Shikongo (Head of ABS Unit) [presented a brief overview](#) of CBD COP 16 and Nagoya Protocol MOP 5 outcomes with direct relevance for the further work of the ABS Initiative:

- The draft decision on the GBF Monitoring Framework L.26 [EN](#) / [FR](#) established two headline indicators for ABS to report on, *inter alia*:
 - C.1 Monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments.
 - C.2 Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international ABS instruments.
- The main task for the ABS Initiative is to **support countries in measuring** a significant increase of the **benefits shared**.
- Three decisions directly relevant to IPLCs 16/4 [EN](#) / [FR](#), 16/4 [EN](#) / [FR](#), 16/6 [EN](#) / [FR](#) took far-reaching decisions, *inter alia*:
 - Adopts the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the CBD related to IPLCs to 2030 with the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) being a main actor.
 - Decides to establish a subsidiary body on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the CBD related to IPLCs.
 - Invites Parties, as appropriate, in line with national legislation or circumstances, to recognize the contributions of people of African descent ... in the implementation of the CBD and GBF.
- The main task for the ABS Initiative is to **support Element 3 of the Programme of Work**: “Sharing of benefits from the utilization of GR and DSI, as well as associated traditional knowledge.”
- Decision 16/2 [EN](#) / [FR](#) adopted the modalities for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of DSI, including the Cali Fund.
- Towards a functional DSI Multilateral mechanism the main tasks for the ABS Initiative are supporting:
 - the discussion on **final thresholds and contribution rates** until COP 17
 - the use of a **clearing house mechanism** on non-monetary benefit-sharing
 - the development of **measures to incentivise** users to contribute to the Cali Fund.

The **Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Kent Nnadozie (Executive Secretary)** underlined that the GBF is a global call for actions on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- **GBF headline indicators on ABS** are a major accomplishment. It will not be easy to monitor their achievement. Associated traditional knowledge should be protected and promoted. Monitoring of these elements of the GBF is challenging as the global landscape evolves. Stakeholders and governments need to address these changes. Continuing support and collaboration between sectors are necessary to resolve these issues. Because the GBF was adopted as Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society instrument, all sectors, such as environment and agriculture, have to address the issues in a more holistic way.
- **The issue of DSI benefit-sharing** was controversial but could be resolved at the political level. The meaning of the DSI decision in real life will be a different matter. We cannot resolve all aspects in one step, but need to continue our work from COP 16 and gradually improve the situation. The Secretariat of the ITPGRFA was encouraged by this progress. The work of governments on implementing the DSI decision should be mutually supportive of other agreements. Monetary benefits may fade quickly, so non-monetary benefits are very important in the long-term to support sustainable use and management of biodiversity.
- **The process of reviewing NBSAPs** is critical as countries implement the GBF through them. NBSAPs now must be multi-sectoral with a very comprehensive approach, including livelihoods, economic development, food security plus the protection of the environment.

African Union Commission (AUC) – Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, Odueste Oldmann Koboto (MEA Coordinator): The AUC sees the outcomes from Cali as encouraging, but I would like to concentrate on the process. Our role is to ensure African voices are heard in UN negotiations. In terms of coordination, we witnessed that African governments could reach consensus on the main issues. This is not always the case in the CBD and other conventions. Africa was given ample time for coordination during COP 16, and we commend the SCBD for allowing this. In the end the African continent unified its position and the 26 ministers present showed a high level of political will. With the COP 16 decisions, we could also advance the **African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**.

Discussions highlighted the need for inclusive participation across sectors. Taukondjo Shikongo (SCBD) emphasized the importance of **coordination among African regions**, acknowledging longstanding partnerships and the role of national focal points. He noted the increasing workload for the SCBD without a corresponding staff increase, raising concerns about work quality and decision-making. He also pointed out that COP 16 remained inconclusive and urged discussion on resolving this issue.

Mustafa Fouda (Egypt) reflected on **Africa's strong negotiation efforts** and the challenge of implementing COP 16 decisions. He stressed the long-standing debate on non-monetary benefit-sharing and called for concrete steps to implement the decision on DSI benefit-sharing.

Resources:

- [Taukondjo Shikongo - Outcomes of CBD COP 16 most relevant for the work of the ABS Initiative](#)
- African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) 2023-2030 [EN](#) / [FR](#)

ABS Implementation in Africa

As in previous pan-African ABS workshops, sessions were dedicated to inform and reflect on:

- the status and challenges in implementing the Nagoya Protocol in Africa
- African perspectives on enhancing functioning of the Multilateral System (MLS) of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA or Plant Treaty).

Status of ABS Implementation in Africa – focus on the Nagoya Protocol

A [presentation](#), prepared by the ABS Initiative in partnership with the CBD Secretariat, provided an overview of the information published by African countries on the [ABS Clearing-House](#):

- More than **80% of the African countries have ratified the NP** (not Algeria, Cabo Verde, Libya, Somalia and South Sudan).
- However, only **25 countries** have established **political, legal, or administrative measures**, with **14 post-NP measures** of which **11 countries** have developed a **procedure** for getting an ABS permit.
- By end-January 2025 eight African countries had registered an IRCC (Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance) – total 242 of which 149 are commercial.

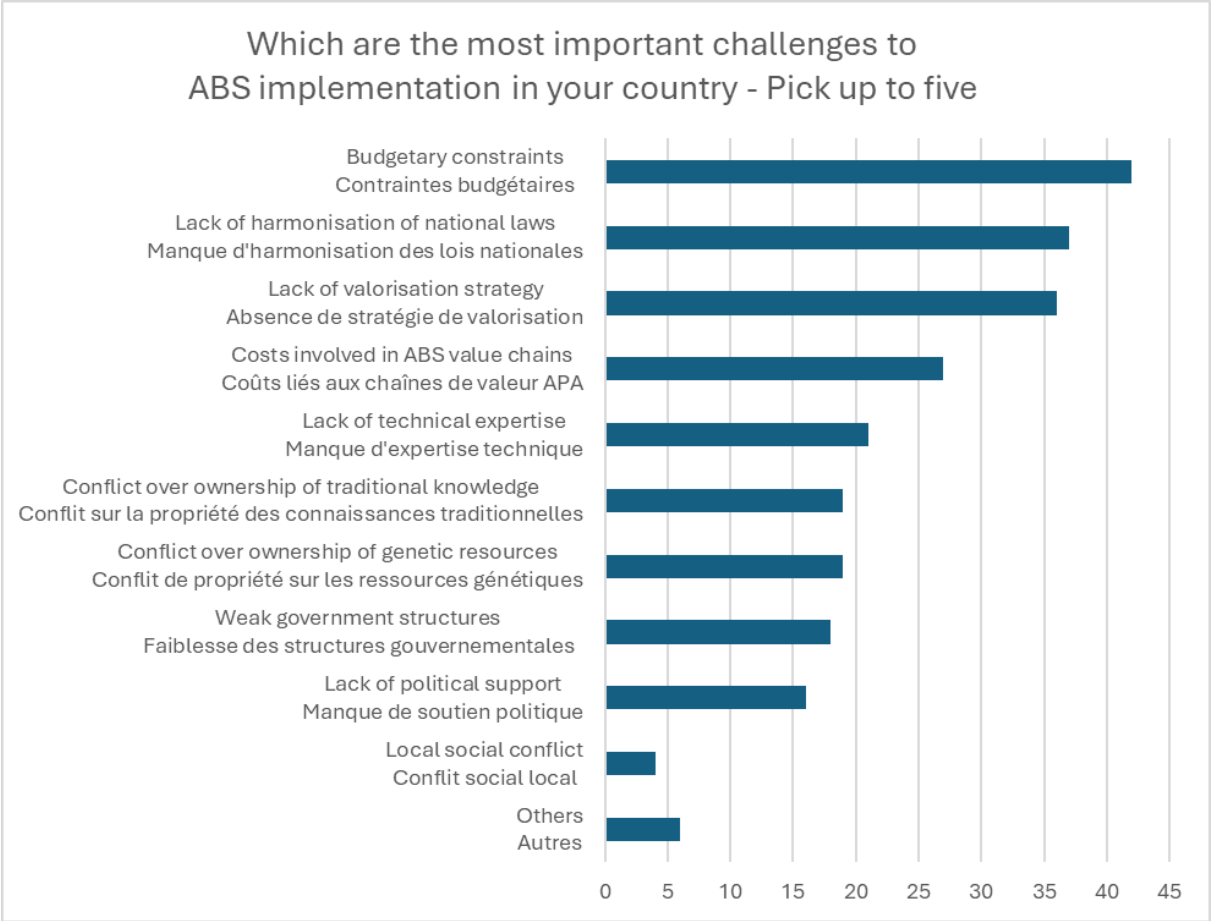
Taukondjo Shikongo (Head of ABS Unit of the SCBD) said that despite a high rate of ratifications of the Nagoya Protocol and a considerable number of measures in place, only a few countries have regulations and even less have procedures, developed after 2014, in place, which raises questions about African countries' commitment to obtain benefits. He asked why Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) have not been published despite the important role of traditional knowledge and IPLCs in Africa. He concluded that Article 8(j) focal points might be needed for better representation of IPLCs in future work of the newly established Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j).

The following panel presented and discussed success factors and challenges for ABS implementation based on experiences of countries with an:

- **ABS framework in development:** Presentation by [Senegal](#), complemented by **Mozambique**
 - **Both countries** have interim mechanisms enabling them to issue permits for non-commercial research, so as not to stop research due to the lack of funds during the slow process of establishing a regulatory ABS framework.
 - Major challenges are awareness raising and capacity building with government and other stakeholders.
 - Next steps: **Senegal** sees opportunities linked to the NBSAP review while **Mozambique** is engaged in regional consultations of a draft law and in a peer-to-peer exchange with South Africa and Brazil.
- **ABS framework in implementation:** Presentation by [Cameroon](#), complemented by **Kenya**
 - In **Cameroon** the ABS regulation entered into force in 2023, establishing a national ABS committee, and national focal points for ABS and the Clearing House. Compliance is supported by guidelines and training modules. A key success factor is the inclusion of ABS in the government budget.
 - **Kenya** integrated ABS provisions already pre-Nagoya in different laws and regulations such as the Wildlife Act, and the Science, Technology and Innovation Act. After Nagoya, legislation was developed to coordinate communities and use of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, including BCPs as relevant instruments, and ABS was integrated in the Intellectual Property Rights Act.

- Major challenges for **both countries** are capacity building and awareness raising as well as monitoring compliance and benefits.
- **ABS framework under revision:** Presentation by **Ethiopia**, complemented by **South Africa**
 - After adoption of the NP, **Ethiopia** revised its pre-Nagoya ABS legislation, which is still pending approval by Parliament and the Council of Ministers. A national ABS fund has been established for the monetary benefits received, but the challenge remains how to distribute funds to communities and biodiversity related research.
 - Key challenges are the lack of awareness, monitoring and institutional capacities.
 - **South Africa** is currently reviewing its regulatory framework, including to align existing laws with NP and other new laws relating to TK.
 - Success factors are the cooperation with and support through the ABS Initiative, the sector-wide ABS agreements and cooperation between actors (Bioprospecting Forum).
 - Major challenges are monitoring of use of funds in the ABS fund, the willingness of users to engage due to their perspective of too much bureaucracy, and the need for awareness raising and capacity development for IPLCs, including negotiation skills.

Participants had the opportunity to identify (using Mentimeter) the most important challenges to ABS implementation. **Budgetary constraints, lack of harmonisation of national laws, and the lack of a valorisation strategy, were identified as the biggest challenges.**



Key takeaway messages

Based on the presentations and discussions, and the reflections of **Taukondjo Shikongo**, the following are key points for improving ABS implementation:

- The need for **awareness raising or marketing of ABS** as an income generating instrument in government institutions to create political will and make government budgets available.
- A need for **harmonization and collaboration of African countries** with respect to ABS systems and valorisation, based on existing AUC guidelines
- **National ABS funds** for monetary benefits received to support transparency and facilitate monitoring and reporting.
- **Involvement of IPLCs** is a common issue requiring more efforts for awareness raising and capacity building with links to Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j).
- The **ABS Clearing-House** is relevant for all users so all relevant information should be uploaded as soon as possible.
- More **involvement of users** during the development of regulatory frameworks might help to avoid too complex or burdensome regulations.

Enhancing the functioning of the MLS of the Plant Treaty

Kent Nnadozie (Executive Secretary of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - ITPGRFA) outlined in his [presentation](#) the main features of the treaty and basic functioning of the MLS, which facilitates access to plant genetic resources and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, based on a standardized material transfer agreement (SMTA). Because the Benefit-sharing Fund of the MLS was largely based on voluntary contributions by governments, a process for the enhancement of the functioning and broadening the scope of the MLS was initiated in 2013 with renewed and refined mandates in 2020 and 2023 respectively. The negotiations around the three hotspots (1) **DSI**, (2) **amendment of Annex 1** and (3) **payment structure/rates are expected to be finalised in 2025**, with formal meetings scheduled for early April and July in Rome and the 11th Meeting of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, 24-28 November 2025 in Cusco, Peru. Objectives of enhancement are:

- Sustainable and predictable user-based payments
- Increased benefits, monetary and non-monetary
- A more dynamic MLS
- Legal certainty with administrative simplicity and transparency

A stage exercise of about 10 Nagoya Protocol (NP) and 10 ITPGRFA national focal points revealed a spectrum of agreement and disagreement between and within the two groups regarding the following six statements about potential impacts of the enhancement and broadening of the scope of the MLS:

Statement 1: Including more crops in the MLS could attract more users to subscribe and contribute financially

- **Majority Strongly Agrees, Some Disagree** – Most believe expanding Annex 1 and incorporating DSI will attract users and be beneficial, while a few dissent, citing concerns over benefit-sharing and control over crops.

Statement 2: Countries might benefit more from handling ABS arrangements through their Nagoya provisions.

- **Unanimous Agreement** – All agree that a single system is more beneficial than a dual system, as it simplifies processes and broadens coverage.

Statement 3: Increased subscriptions could provide more predictable income for the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF).

- **Majority Agree, Some Unclear** – Many believe a subscription model provides clarity on contributors and benefit-sharing amounts, but some remain uncertain about its implications.

Statement 4: The proposed changes are unlikely to significantly increase benefit-sharing for smallholder farmers from plant genetic resources not currently covered by the MLS.

- **Mostly Negative, Few Positive** – Concerns exist over how funds are used and whether smallholder farmers benefit. The scope of benefits is seen as expanding, but clarity is needed on distribution.

Statement 5: Expanding Annex 1 to all PGRFA might support R&D on orphan crops.

- **Mixed Views, Few Undecided** – Some worry the NP might be dismantled, while the potential benefits are unclear. Legal implications and crop lists need further understanding.

Statement 6: Establishing a payment structure other than a subscription-only model could limit valuable innovations in the benefit-sharing pool. i.e. two options for the payment structure are proposed: subscription only or subscription plus. Would the subscription plus option leave out valuable innovations?

- **Mostly Disagreement and Uncertainty with one Agreement** supporting flexibility for users, to increase benefits.

It was expected that NP and Plant Treaty focal points would position them differently to the statements. The fact that the positioning did not differ clearly between the two groups is quite surprising as it was expected that the information base of the Plant Treaty focal points, being involved in the ongoing negotiation process for the enhancement and functioning of the MLS, is broader and deeper as compared to the NP focal points.

During the discussion one participant highlighted that Africa proposed a subscription system under which a subscriber has a payment obligation when a product listed in Annex 1 of the ITPGRFA is commercialized. If a subscriber breeds new crops freely available for further breeding, he has no legal obligation to share monetary benefits. Having unlimited access to a global set of ex-situ material without complicated bilateral negotiations is a real benefit for developing countries. The enhancements proposed increase simplicity and prevent legal loopholes.

Key takeaway messages

- There is still **limited understanding** of the proposed enhancement for the functioning and **broadening the scope of the MSL** under the ITPGRFA.
- The roadmap of the decision process on the enhancement of the MLM in 2025 **capacity development**, as well as **information sharing** among and between **NP and Plant Treaty focal points**, is an **urgent priority** and needs to be fostered.
- The **NP and the ITPGRFA should be implemented in synergy** to address **global interdependence on food crop origins**. A national framework is needed to support their integration, ensuring **collaboration across sectors, mutual capacity building** to better understand the NP and ITPGRFA, multi-stakeholder engagement, and **policy improvements** through coordinated efforts and lobbying.

Resources:

- [Lena di Carlo and Taukondjo Shikongo - Review of the 2025 information in the ABS Clearing House: Focus on African countries](#)
- [Babacar Ngor Youm - Expériences de mise en œuvre de l'APA en Afrique: Senegal](#)
- [Aurélie Taylor Dingom - Experiences in implementing ABS in Africa: Cameroon](#)
- [Abiyot Berhanu - Experiences in implementing ABS in Africa: Ethiopia](#)
- [Kent Nnadozie - Overview of the ITPGRFA and its Multilateral Systems \(MLS\) of ABS](#)

Mainstreaming ABS and biotrade

Integrating ABS and biotrade into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) will be essential for the successful alignment of national development frameworks with the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Mainstreaming ABS and biotrade was a cross-cutting topic addressed in various sessions during the workshop. This thematic report summarises key points made in [an initial input](#), various panel discussions and presentations.

Definition of ABS Mainstreaming

Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Mainstreaming can be regarded as a **process of systematically incorporating ABS and biotrade into other relevant sectors** and/or planning to promote development outcomes. As a result, ABS and biotrade shall be reflected in existing or upcoming structures, laws, strategies, plans, policies and programmes of other sectors such as trade, economy, finance health, agriculture, forestry, etc., and avoid the creation of parallel processes or structures. Mainstreaming involves a **process of change** in the culture and practices of all institutions and stakeholders involved.

The mandate for mainstreaming has already been provided in the CBD Decision 15/6 “Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review” (19/12/2022) in its **Section 23**, which encourages parties: “(c) To enable the *full and effective participation and engagement of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, all levels of government and stakeholders from all other relevant sectors*, in all levels of development and implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as in the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports”. Section 24 of the same CBD Decision “Invites *Parties and other Governments to cooperate* at the regional and international levels *in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*”.

To **mainstream ABS and biotrade is essential to achieve Target 13** of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which is to increase sharing of benefits from genetic resources, Digital Sequence Information (DSI) and traditional knowledge. Parties thus shall “take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels” in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

Key messages

Integrating ABS and biotrade into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) requires aligning policies with national frameworks, engaging all stakeholders, and addressing administrative and financial constraints. Key **challenges** include **limited funding, complex regulations, and lack of stakeholder involvement**, highlighting the need for practical frameworks, stronger institutional capacity, and positioning **ABS** as both a **conservation tool and an economic opportunity**.

Valorisation offers a **key opportunity to mainstream** biotrade and ABS across multiple sectors, but challenges such as inconsistent legal frameworks and limited information **require stronger private sector involvement, industry-wide agreements, and integration of conservation efforts into business strategies**. A Whole-of-Government (WoG) and Whole-of-Society (WoS) approach is essential for developing a sustainable value chain, ensuring inclusive participation, strengthening ABS-biotrade linkages, and leveraging the NBSAP review process to align national regulations and implementation efforts.

1. Key messages from panel discussions and contributions by speakers and participants

The following sub-chapters list the key messages from the workshop, focusing on two topics that were identified as key topics for mainstreaming:

- Integrating ABS in NBSAPs
- Valorisation and the Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach

Integrating ABS in NBSAPs

Incorporating ABS and biotrade into NBSAPs and sectoral policies is crucial for their effective integration across key sectors. This necessitates **embedding ABS and biotrade into both current and future policies as part of a broader transformational process**. Involving all actors along the ABS value chain as well as the authorities overseeing them is crucial for a robust NBSAP.

Aligning NBSAPs with the GBF means adapting them to the national context. The activities planned in the NBSAPs must be integrated into the national planning processes.

Key priorities include:

- Domesticating international frameworks
- Strengthening national legal, political, and institutional structures for biodiversity
- Enhancing administrative capacity
- Expanding stakeholder consultations
- Improving collaborative conservation efforts

Challenges in Revising NBSAPs:

- Limited funding
- Administrative constraints that hinder stakeholder engagement and data collection
- A lack of funding for external technical support in some cases

Additionally, **budgetary constraints, the absence of a valorisation strategy**, and other challenges were highlighted. For example, the **availability of data is crucial** for developing NBSAPs and monitoring benefit-sharing. It was proposed to establish central databases in a country with **standardised monitoring procedures** and a central coordinator. The private sector needs to contribute data to ensure transparency and sustainable use.

Another challenge is seen in the lack of monitoring resources and of benefits shared. Monitoring continues to be a challenge and can be addressed by the revision of the NBSAPs and the inclusion of monitoring aspects in national ABS frameworks. It was recommended to **involve the users of the genetic resources** more in the development of **ABS frameworks** to ensure these are more practical and less complex and burdensome.

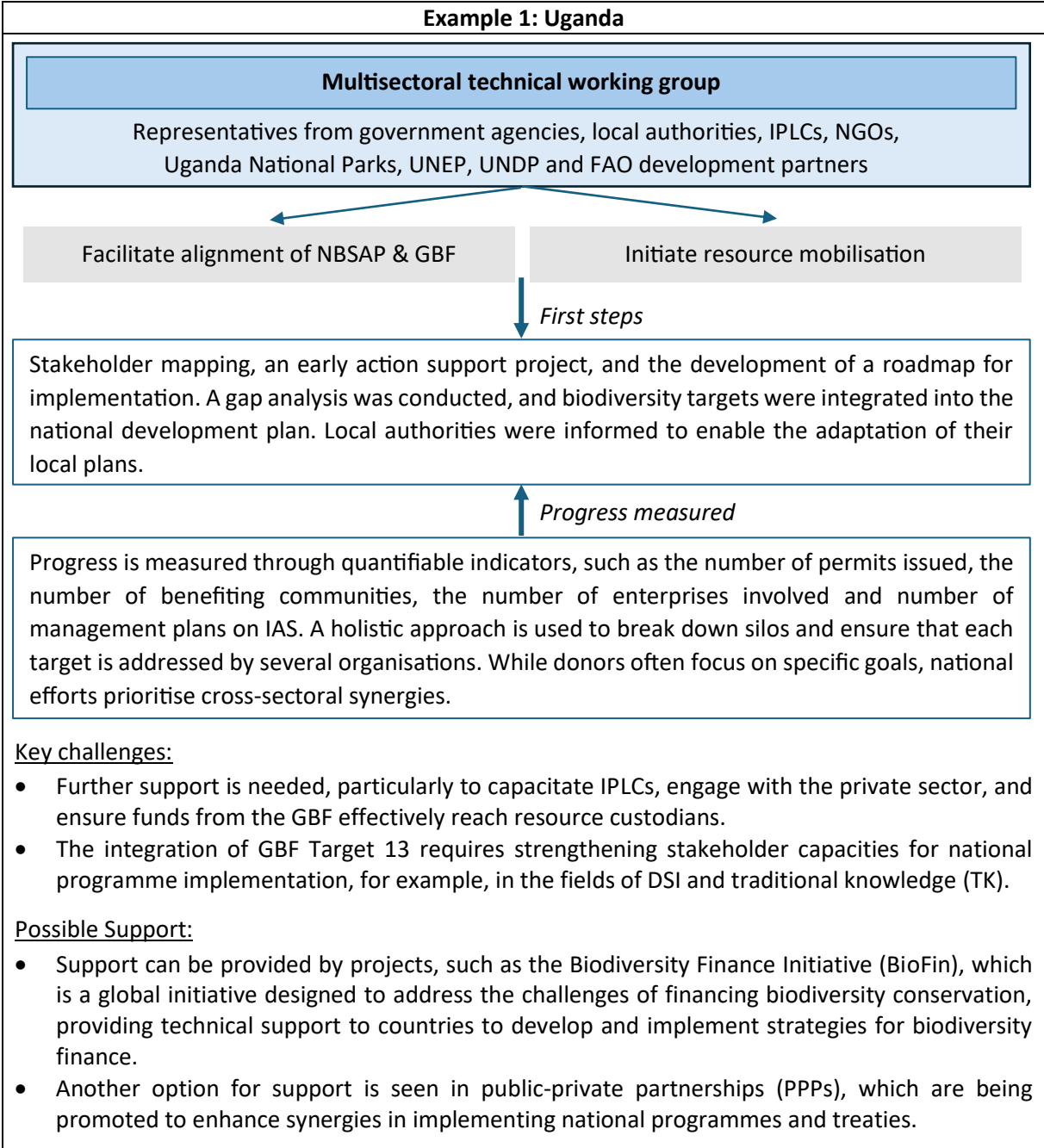
The Role of the African Union: The African Union (AU) was the first to develop a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) and called on countries to revise or develop their national NBSAPs to support the implementation of the GBF, underlining the crucial role of the private sector in this process.

The role of UNEP: As the NBSAP review is a critical moment to mainstream ABS across various sectors and address existing policy gaps, UNEP encourages stakeholders to submit their specific needs, allowing for better prioritisation of support and resources. The GEF-8 funded umbrella programme supports the updating of NBSAPs and the 7th National Reporting process in collaboration with the GEF-8 BioFin project. The deadline for submitting the 7th National Reports is February 2026, covering progress since 2015/2016.

ABS should not only be regarded as a measure to protect people and biodiversity but **can also be seen as a socio-economic option that generates income**. This will make ABS more attractive and sustainable for all stakeholders involved.

Examples from countries

In a panel discussion on experiences in integrating ABS into NBSAP, three panellists shared their views on their countries’ ABS mainstreaming processes: Anne Nakafeero (Uganda), Rantonirina Rakotoaridera (Madagascar) and Moumouni Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso).



Example 2: Madagascar

NBSAP revision required preliminary actions, considering the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the Plant Treaty while focusing on benefit-sharing.
The revision included 4 steps

- (1) Alignment of the old NBSAP with the GBF and comparison of old and new NBSAPs by consultants. Studies to identify national targets.
- (2) Broad consultation process at regional level, also engaging young people and local communities.
- (3) National workshop in which all relevant stakeholders provided input on the targets.
- (4) **Moving forward**, working groups will be established and made operational, while action groups will be developed for each target of the GBF.

Key challenges:

- Indicators for monitoring progress still need to be developed
- Further actors need to be identified for the implementation and the refinement of monitoring mechanisms

Support:

With the support of the Early Action Program of UNDP, studies were conducted and consultations held, leading to the production of a document on the alignment of the NBSAP with the GBF, the definition of national targets, the study on the alignment of policies and institutions, and the launch of activities related to the monitoring framework. The various consultations made it possible to involve stakeholders who had previously been little involved in such processes, particularly women and young people.

Example 3: Burkina Faso

NBSAP revision in 4 steps structured around national priorities

- (1) Data collection to inform decision-makers and securing their political will
- (2) Stakeholder identification and involvement, including civil society organisations
- (3) Identification of weaknesses in the previous NBSAP using a diagnostic tool
- (4) Aligning national priorities with international goals, including the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol, based on a comprehensive assessment

Key challenges:

- General lack of awareness about biodiversity
- Securing adequate funding
- Difficulties when integrating global frameworks into national priorities.
- Enhancing synergies between actors as well as ensuring the integration of biodiversity into national budgets

Possible Solutions / Support:

- The work was carried out by multidisciplinary national experts. This use of national expertise has promoted greater national appropriation of the content and issues related to biodiversity, and a reduction in costs associated with their expertise.
- Local researchers were engaged to collect data, and findings were reviewed in a series of stakeholder workshops, supported by a local bank
- Efforts continue to integrate different stakeholders, including IPLCs and the private sector, to ensure a more inclusive and effective implementation of biodiversity goals

Valorisation and Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) potentially contribute to mainstreaming biotrade and ABS through the WoG and WoS approach. The degree of institutionalisation of MSPs varies, ranging from informal networks and round tables to more structured governance frameworks and formalised MSPs. These approaches offer significant opportunities for awareness raising, capacity building, fostering mutual understanding, and engaging IPLCs. They also help identify support mechanisms for financing, enhance transparency and monitoring, and inform government decisions and institutions. The key messages in this context are:

- The **ABS landscape** has evolved, bringing new complexities that **require fresh, innovative approaches**. Therefore, cross-sectoral strategies should be developed to ensure that ABS effectively benefits people.
- **Valorisation presents an opportunity for mainstreaming** ABS and biotrade across multiple sectors, including pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, cosmetics, botanicals, biotechnology, and agriculture. However, establishing best practices remains challenging due to the variability of national legal frameworks and limited information.

Private sector engagement is critical to:

- Enhancing legal frameworks,
- Advocating for industry-wide agreements, and
- Expanding benefit-sharing beyond monetary contributions by integrating conservation efforts into business strategies.

An [example from Zimbabwe](#) was presented which supports local authorities in developing by-laws and building capacity for local communities.

Representatives from South Africa highlighted the success of **sector-specific approaches and development plans**, which can create pressure on businesses that do not comply. Additionally, communities of practice help improve and facilitate compliance and provide the opportunity to strengthen the involvement of local stakeholders. It also results in players from various sectors being aware of ABS.

It is crucial for ABS mainstreaming that not only national, but also **regional (provincial) governments are involved** in the valorisation and multi-stakeholder approaches to ensure a harmonisation of regulations in the provider country.

A notable example of an **industry-wide ABS agreement**, which demonstrates how mainstreaming can be achieved, can be seen in the Baobab sector in South Africa. The sustainable use of Baobab requires collaboration with stakeholders representing e.g., protected areas. Compliance with their regulations resulted in sector-wide management practices that have a positive effect on the sustainable use of Baobab, while unregulated harvesting can lead to depletion.

High tariffs and burdensome regulations should be avoided as these can result in trade becoming more informal to bypass regulations.

Creating a functional and sustainable value chain requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders at different stages.

Key enablers include:

- Whole-of-Government approach
- The integration of civil society organisations (CSOs), business support organisations (BSOs), and academia (Whole-of-Society approaches)
- Funding mechanisms such as blended-finance models

More inclusive participation in industry-wide discussions is necessary, particularly for importers and community representatives. Strengthening their involvement will lead to more equitable and effective ABS implementation.

A Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach has already proven effective, as demonstrated by the engagement during the workshop of international and national traders of Baobab and other products. But linkages between ABS and biotrade remain weak, highlighting the need for national regulations to bridge this gap. **The NBSAP review process presents an opportunity to develop measures that align the implementation of ABS, biotrade and the ITPGRFA.**

Resources:

- [Suhel al-Janabi – Mainstreaming: Consideration of ABS and BioTrade in NBSAPs and sectoral policies](#)
- Tanya McGregor - The GEF 8 NBSAP Update and 7th National Report Project: [EN / FR](#)
- [Cyril Lombard and Suhel al-Janabi - Understanding Valorisation: Focus on value chains](#)
- [Nirina Olivier Rakotoson - Recherche et développement : l'approche up'cycling \(KADOO\) in Madagascar](#)
- [Norah Ngatjizeko - Valorisation in different sectors and business models: The case of devil's claw in Namibia](#)
- [Sarah Venter - Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Baobab across Africa](#)

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

The implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) and biotrade initiatives in Africa has highlighted the critical importance of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) as mechanisms for achieving mutually beneficial, sustainable and equitable outcomes. This thematic report examines the key aspects of MSPs, drawing from discussions and case studies presented at the workshop.

From concept to implementation, promoting opportunities for common ground in Africa's bioprospecting and biotrade

The workshop convened stakeholders from across Africa, including participants at the African Baobab Alliance conference held in parallel, to examine MSP approaches through different lenses.

MSPs in natural resource management bring together private and public sectors, NGOs, academia, and IPLCs to create inclusive and sustainable value chains. These partnerships **vary in structure, from informal networks to formalized governance bodies**, and play a crucial role in capacity building, transparency, financing and policy development.

MSPs promote empowerment through creating environments where knowledge can be actively practiced and where the development of action plans strengthens capacity to foster inclusive participation.

The Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach was highlighted as critical and an underpinning principle for building successful ABS and biotrade MSPs.

MSPs have found application across various sectors, each with distinct characteristics and requirements. [Several case studies with a national focus were presented](#) and discussed during the workshop illustrating these varying approaches:

- Namibia Silver Cluster Leaf
- Resurrection Bush in Zimbabwe
- Honeybush Community of Practice in South Africa

Successful examples demonstrate the importance of bottom-up approaches and legal frameworks like ABS.

Sector Development Plans (SDPs) have proven effective in providing structured frameworks for collaboration. These plans help align various stakeholder interests and activities while providing clear roadmaps for implementation. In South Africa the sector development plan for the Honeybush sector is vital to strengthen organisation of the sector, create market demand, guarantee a consistent quality of supply, and to support research and development.

Baobab, growing in **32 African countries**, highlights the importance of **regional MSPs**, as the sustainable management of Baobab involves multiple stakeholders, including local communities, businesses, regulators, and conservationists. IPLCs play a key role in harvesting and benefiting from Baobab commercialization, but concerns remain about equitable profit distribution and sustainable practices. Businesses drive economic opportunities but must ensure ethical sourcing and conservation efforts. Regulators are essential for establishing standardized monitoring protocols and tenure rights to prevent overexploitation. Scientists and environmentalists contribute by researching ecological impacts, climate resilience and genetic preservation. Collaboration across these groups is crucial for balancing commercial use with conservation and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Regional multi-stakeholder engagement platforms facilitate coordination and communication across borders. These platforms have been **particularly successful when integrated with academic institutions** serving as **data collection** and **analysis centres**.

Enhanced regional multi-stakeholder engagement is needed in Africa - combined with scaling up of the support that various national / regional organisations and partners can deliver to promote conservation, commercialisation and financing.

Challenges

The implementation of MSPs has revealed several consistent challenges at national and regional level, such as ensuring benefits reach communities, linking business involvement with policy, and addressing gaps in resource ownership and governance:

- **Balancing immediate community benefits with long-term R&D timelines** presents ongoing difficulties, especially in managing expectations across different stakeholder groups.
- **Coordination across international boundaries** remains a significant hurdle, particularly when dealing with multiple jurisdictions and regulatory frameworks.
- **Harmonizing regulations and standards across regions** requires sustained effort and commitment from multiple parties.

Key messages

A systemic adaptive approach is needed to align stakeholder priorities, enhance market readiness, and integrate conservation with economic opportunities. Several areas require attention for the continued development of effective MSPs:

- **Regional cooperation**: There is a clear need for enhanced pan-African resource assessment and monitoring systems. This includes harmonizing approaches across countries and strengthening links between national-level networks. Gus le Breton from the [African Baobab Alliance](#) raised the question of how to practically implement a pan-African resource assessment and monitoring system?
- **Partnership models**: Future success depends on developing more sophisticated public-private collaboration models that integrate conservation and commercialization objectives while ensuring sustainable benefit-sharing.
- **Capacity building**: Continued development of training modules for ABS and biotrade implementation remains crucial, with a focus on practical application and knowledge sharing across stakeholder groups.
- **Include conservation in ABS agreements**: Conservation, compliance and enforcement to be included in the ABS agreements, connecting the resource and the access provider to conversation.

Resources:

- [Shamiso Mungwashu - ABS compliance in the Baobab sector: A study by the African Baobab Alliance](#)
- [Sarah Venter - Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Baobab across Africa](#)
- [Anja Teschner - Collaborations multipartites pour la valorisation et le respect de l'APA: Un Aperçu](#)
- [Ulrich Feiter - The Buchu Sector Wide Benefit Sharing Agreement in South Africa: History - Challenges - Outcomes](#)
- [Maria Julia Oliva - Partnership for sustainable sourcing in Centella](#)
- [Agnes Tsamases - The Kunene Conservancies Indigenous Natural Products Trust \(KCINP Trust\) T/A SCENTS OF NAMIBIA](#)

Blended finance for biotrade

The biotrade sector cannot grow with bank finance alone. Besides technical assistance, funding and financing from several sources are essential in an ecosystem of different actors supporting biodiversity-based business models. This thematic report summarises key aspects presented and discussed during the workshop.

Dagmar Honsbein and **Cyril Lombard** [presented the findings of the study](#) “*Financing instruments and gaps for SMMEs (MSMEs) in the biotrade sector study - A view on the Southern African Region*”. [The study](#) responds to the need for access to finance for SMMEs in the biotrade sector as exemplified during a field visit to a baobab processor. A typical financing challenge is to get the novel food registrations and certifications in EU/European, US, Japanese and Chinese markets. For Baobab the total estimated cost was around €800,000 over five years. The process which started in 2008 was facilitated by PhytoTrade Africa, an NGO and business support organisation.

Finance institutions first look at the **risk profile of a business or business proposition**. It is therefore necessary to see the finance institutions’ perspective when preparing applications for financial support. The common risks cited included:

- **Risk of lack of compliance:** E.g. will a new product have all regulatory requirements and ABS permits in place?
- **Perception risk - change from risk focus to opportunity focus:** Many banks lack understanding of the biotrade sector and its biodiversity-based business model. Natural products have expiry dates, with wild harvesting local communities are involved, products serve niche markets and markets still need to be explored. Natural products can feasibly be commercialised but not commoditised. To convince finance institutions MSMEs must be able to explain what opportunities exist in the biotrade sector in general and their respective business model and markets.
- **Financial Risk:** Bank funding requires collateral and a sound business model. While a good business model may exist, acceptable collateral is often lacking. Support from donors may exist, but may not always be recognised as part of the business model.
- **Risk of not meeting eligibility criteria:** The existing financing vehicles have too large ticket sizes and insurmountable eligibility criteria for MSMEs in biotrade sector.

Blended finance is an option to overcome those risks and assist MSMEs in the biotrade sector. The strategic use of public, philanthropic, or concessional capital supports the mobilisation of private investment for sustainable development, particularly in emerging markets. It aims to reduce investment risks and attract commercial funding into projects that deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits.

Blended finance typically combines:

- Public or donor funding (e.g., grants, concessional loans) to de-risk investments
- Private capital (e.g., institutional investors, banks) to scale up funding
- Development finance (e.g., impact investors, multilateral banks) to bridge funding gaps

Impact of blended finance in biotrade:

- De-risks private investment in biodiversity-based businesses
- Increases market access for small producers
- Supports conservation goals by ensuring sustainable harvesting
- Creates jobs and enhances livelihoods in rural communities

Key points addressed during the discussion:

- **Resources and countries in the study:** The study focused on in-situ biodiversity and partner organizations working with wild resources, within the BioInnovation Africa project. The pilot project targets BIA countries, with a focus on Namibia and South Africa.
- **Inclusion of the informal sector:** The informal sector plays a significant role in biotrade but can largely not be considered for financing due to regulatory compliance requirements. To become investment-ready, informal businesses need to formalize by opening a bank account, registering the business, and documenting ownership. Technical and financial assistance should be delivered in a relevant manner.
- **Covering compliance costs of ABS legislation:** Compliance costs are not covered as a stand-alone funding item. Instead, monetary benefit-sharing should be included in product or production costing models, similar to how R&D costs are covered.

Experiences shared by the audience confirmed the findings of the study: Egypt explored through their **Egypt Finance Lab** using insurance products to mitigate adverse climatic conditions affecting production. They convened a multi-stakeholder initiative to bridge the gap between the demand side (MSMEs in the biotrade sector) and the supply side (financial sector). However, the insurance was limited to agricultural production systems and required reinsurance.

Madagascar emphasized the need to **explore market possibilities** without targeting agriculture-based biodiversity, thus avoiding the cultivation and plantation sector. Conservation was deemed as important as business development, and the aspects concerning IPLCs were considered crucial.

Small businesses face significant challenges in securing finance, as **traditional funding sources are often not specific to biotrade** and cannot cater to the unique needs of MSMEs in the sector. It was noted that while each MSME has its own challenges, there are similarities at the sector or resource level that can be used to build consensus on a finance ecosystem level.

Key takeaway messages:

- **Blended finance as a concept for finance to MSMEs** in the biotrade sector is not yet sufficiently understood by stakeholders and actors in the sector. There is need for **more information and awareness**, highlighting the benefits of a *biotrade* blended finance vehicle.
- **Several country representatives** have signalled interest and wish to learn more about the planned pilot for a blended finance instrument in Southern Africa. There may be a possibility to roll out **similar initiatives** in Africa, funds permitting.
- There is need to pilot the approach in **partnership** with, for example, multilateral development banks or regional development institutions, paired with local institutions (private and public) and support of bilateral donors.

Resources:

- Study: [Friedrich zur Heide, Dagmar Honsbein and Cyril Lombard: Financing instruments and gaps for SMMs \(MSMEs\) in the biotrade sector study: A view on the Southern African Region](#)
- [Dagmar Honsbein and Cyril Lombard: Financing Biotrade: Support on mapping, analysing and advising on financial instruments in South Africa and Namibia](#)

Capacity development approaches

Capacity development for successful implementation of ABS and biotrade was a cross-cutting topic addressed in various sessions during the workshop.

Taukodjo Shikongo of the SCBD introduced the Capacity-Building & Development Action Plan for the Nagoya Protocol (NP 5/3 [EN](#)) (CB/CD Action Plan) as a key outcome resulting from COP 16/MOP 5 with reference to Target 13 of the GBF.

He urged parties to use the action plan for the elaboration of the NBSAPs and implementation of the GBF. Hartmut Meyer of the ABS Capacity Building Initiative [gave an overview](#) of capacity building developments for the Nagoya Protocol implementation, and inputs from the ABS Initiative.

He presented the new elements of the CB/CD Action Plan which establishes the international framework for parties and partners. Overall, the CB/CD Action Plan is less specific in terms of activities to make it more flexible and adaptable to the differing needs.

The Action Plan is structured into 6 Outcomes and features new aspects in comparison to the previous strategic framework for capacity-building and development adopted at COP MOP 1 (NP 1/8):

Outcome 1 Strengthened capacity to implement and comply with obligations under the Nagoya Protocol (NP):

- general advice on communication approaches, reference to financing and reporting obligations of the NP and GBF; reference to IPLC, youth, women and culturally appropriate activities

Outcome 2 Strengthened capacity to develop, implement and also enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on ABS:

- strong focus on lessons learned and deficiencies in national systems, implementing obligations towards IPLC

Outcome 3 Strengthened capacity to negotiate Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT):

- activities beyond MAT to include R&D, value chains and trigger points for benefit-sharing

Outcome 4 Strengthened capacity of IPLC to participate in the implementation of the NP:

- inclusion of women and youth

Outcome 5 Strengthened capacity to undertake endogenous biodiversity-based R&D to add value to genetic resources:

- focus on developing policies and funding for biodiversity-based R&D, focus on developing commercial products to create benefits, activities on Intellectual Property Rights

Outcome 6 Strengthened capacity to foster inclusive Whole-of-Government (WoG) and Whole-of-Society (WoS) approaches for the implementation of the NP:

- Strengthen WoG and WoS approaches through strategic communication, knowledge of MSP approaches, improved participation of women and youth, knowledge and awareness about national systems, sharing of lessons learned on the ABS Clearing-House; youth and gender responsiveness of CB/CD, integration of ABS in school/university curricula.

Friedrich zur Heide (GIZ /BIA) pointed out that the BIA project is in its last year in the current form. It will now focus on consolidating achievements in various partnerships and on institutionalising further use of products developed (such as the *BioInnovation Academy* modules). The project will capitalise on knowledge developed and lessons learnt during the project for further use by others. The experiences and achievements of the project will be translated into donor recommendations.

Danièle Fouth (GIZ/BIA) and Dagmar Honsbein (BIA consultant) [presented the BioInnovation Academy](#) as a contribution of BIA to the implementation of the capacity-building and development (CB/CD) framework of the NP. **The BioInnovation Academy** provides a training of trainers approach to **institutionalise CB/CD** in BIA partner countries after the end of the project and to support countries where BIA is not active.

It consists of a set of **6 modules grouped under 3 pillars (Environment, Business-Economics-Governance, Social Aspects)** and broken down into 26 learning units, all linked to the SDGs and the GBF. For each module, there is a trainer manual and a technical manual for trainers, as well as training materials (presentations, case studies, etc.) to be adapted according to the national specificities and the different stakeholders involved in the development of biodiversity-based value chains (regulators, producers, IPLCs, MSMEs, etc.).

Trainings of trainers are planned for April 2025 in BIA partner countries (South Africa, Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia) with trainers selected at the national level based on specific criteria. The idea is to **support the establishment of a network of trainers to promote mutual learning over the long term**. The project will also collaborate with pan-African institutions, such as the School for Wildlife Conservation of the African Leadership University (ALU) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), in its new role as subregional Technical Support Centre for the CBD.

The development of the modules will be finalized by April 2025 and accessible online in French and English.

To better illustrate the approach, an overview on the Biodiversity Valorisation module of the business, economics and governance pillar was presented and highlighted the following aspects

- The modules consider the international, national and then local levels.
- Modules can be adapted by the trainers to the specificities and different stakeholders of each country
- It is not the “what to do” rather the “how to do” and modules come with technical and methodological parts.
- The modules explain the necessary ecosystem for supporting indigenous resources based ethical biotrade.
- The aim is to have different stakeholders in the group of trainers trained that can contribute from their perspective, building a multi-faceted biotrade ecosystem.

By taking a modular approach: modules can stand alone though it is best that trainees have access to more modules. **Workshop participants identified** the following **challenges and key messages for capacity development**:

Challenges:

- Although a lot of work has been done on ABS, there is still a need to **make sure that benefits reach those who have the right to receive them**. Good participation in the workshop demonstrates high commitment to ABS and biotrade from all over Africa. Engagement in proof of concepts is required so successful valorisation of genetic resources contributes to local livelihoods and conservation objectives.
- The **need for capacity development of IPLCs** on relevant aspects along the entire value chain was stressed, including good harvesting practices and negotiating ABS agreements.
- The need was noted to include IPLCs and the private sector in many different formats for dialogue and capacity development.

- Scope and benefit-sharing mechanism are key for understanding the **interlinkages between different international instruments**.
- **It is necessary to** strengthening the capacities of policy makers and regulators to implement the Nagoya Protocol, and other international ABS instruments like the Plant Treaty, at national level in a coherent manner.

Key Messages:

- **Strengthening negotiation skills** – Enhance capacities in ABS agreement negotiations, including aspects like DSI, monitoring and evaluation.
- **Inclusive and Integrated Capacity Building** – Ensure participation of IPLCs, women, and youth from all education levels and along the entire value chain.
- **Technology transfer and R&D** – Improve access to and development of technology, particularly for sequencing, research, and innovation.
- **Strategic knowledge transfer** – Facilitate experience exchange across stakeholders, countries, and sectors through workshops and dialogue platforms.
- **Pan-African Approach** – Implement capacity development through the [five African subregional technical support centres](#), each focusing on key topics, ensuring alignment with national and continental strategies, such as the AU Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Resources:

- [Hartmut Meyer - Capacity-building and development action plan](#)
- [Danièle Fouth, Ezra Bender and Dagmar Honsbein - BioInnovation Academy: Modules de Formation pour la mise en œuvre de l'APA et du Biocommerce](#)

Donor debrief

This section summarises conclusions and calls for support from the workshop, that can be translated into donor recommendations. Some are specific for the thematic and strategic focus of donors, others are more general and potentially apply to any donor.

Mindshift and change in focus

- Technologies, especially in biotechnology and digital applications (including Artificial Intelligence) are evolving rapidly. For regulators, such as for the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (NP), it is a challenge to catch up and regulate accordingly. There is a need to support regulators in being able to apply **new resource-efficient technologies and embrace innovations**, such as IT tools for permit applications and monitoring the use of genetic resources.
- It is questionable that this “new knowledge” has translated into national policies and how regulators engage with the private sector.
- There is a need to go to the fundamentals of the notion of benefit-sharing. It is therefore suggested to **review benefit sharing as a fundamental concept** beyond GBF Target 13 by taking stock of other benefit-sharing approaches and how they could be aligned or mainstreamed to get higher social and political acceptance for Goal C of the GBF and get ABS out of a mere regulatory compliance niche.
- With the need to **align the NP with the ITPGRFA** a “whole-of-multilateralism” approach needs to be followed, bringing together all stakeholders and reduce redundancy in their regulations and finding a common ground between the benefits of a national and a multilateral approach.
- Because of the huge demand for capacity building on valorisation, regulation, benefit-sharing and entrepreneurial aspects for the use of biodiversity, investments are needed to **develop, tailor and institutionalize respective training modules** that are widely accessible (through online platforms) and allow for appropriation. Pan-African organizations and the globally designated CBD Regional Technical Support Centres (see below) may play a pivotal role in this and need to be strengthened.

Mainstreaming ABS and biotrade

- The implementation of GBF Goal C and Target 13 – and the call to *facilitate an increase in benefit-sharing* – requires functioning biodiversity-based value chains, from the community in the field to the researcher in the lab, and from the ingredient manufacturing SME to the industrial producer of the final product.
- To create an **enabling environment for research investments and doing ABS & biotrade business**, conducive regulations as well as financial and technical support schemes need to be in place, anchored in relevant sectoral policies (industry/trade, agriculture, health, IP, research). This requires structured **policy dialogues and mainstreaming processes** where the current **updating of the NBSAPs** can be a key leverage.

GEF funding

- The 8th programming of the GEF provides an opportunity for countries to focus on ABS (Target 13) in its Early Action Support project with respect to their **NBSAP updates** and later in the **7th National Report** – as guiding documents to define national / international support priorities
- The new NP Capacity-Building & Development Action Plan adopted by NP MOP 5 serves as orientation to the GEF and other donors, thus allowing countries to **design more holistic valorisation and/or facilitation-oriented project proposals** to strengthen capacity
 - to undertake endogenous biodiversity-based research and development to add value to genetic resources

- to foster the Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

Valorisation of biodiversity

- Donors need to focus on supporting approaches and respective enabling environments for **biodiversity valorisation** (and related R&D) that underline the **multipurpose and circular aspects** of the (potential) uses and thus foster **product and process innovations** building on existing resources, e.g. **upcycling and co-products**, to diversify the income base, reduce transaction costs and generate social benefits.
- R&D for new products and formulations takes time (from 4-20 years depending on the sector) and are segmented in different stages. In order to have long-term prospects and allow for real innovations, rather than always supporting “the usual suspects” there is a need to design **public-private partnerships in a more strategic long-term and phased manner**.

Following a holistic and integrated approach

- As illustrated by the Baobab sector in Senegal, and other examples across Africa, more holistic support for resource-specific and/or transboundary resources, such as Baobab, Marula and Devil’s Claw, provides opportunities and multi-dimensional benefits for (rural) employment (through value chain professionalization), income diversification, market integration/access for small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMME) and equitable use and conservation of biodiversity. Thus an **integrated approach combining private sector promotion, biodiversity conservation and rural development** allows for a systemic change while meeting varying donor priorities.
- Resource-specific **Sector Development Plans** (SDP) are one approach to encompass these dimensions at a national or cross-country scale.

Public-private dialogues

- The Pan-African workshop’s panel discussions and participants feedback confirmed once again how important **public-private dialogue on ABS and biotrade** is to overcome perceptions of how regulators and the private sector think, communicate and operate. **Mutual understanding and trust** and **finding common ground** are prerequisites to identify the mechanics of a problem and to come up with joint solutions that withstand public and private sector reality checks and requirements, e.g. on ABS procedures and good practices, on market requirements and barriers and what is needed to create enabling environments. Donor investments are needed in **dialogues and formats that allow for a continuous and institutionalized exchange** to co-design solutions.

Regional Technical Support Centres

- The new CBD designated **Regional Technical Support Centres**, mandated to support partner institutions and member countries to implement the GBF, provide an excellent opportunity to dovetail GBF targets with sector support that makes biodiversity-based economies part of the solution to the biodiversity crisis.
These centres could play a pivotal role in **upscaling sector approaches**, convening public and private actors, monitoring and reporting, interregional exchange, knowledge management and transfer through, e.g., offering/hosting training modules on specific necessary capacities of all actor groups, including IPLCs. Thus, **specific financial and technical donor support is recommended** to operationalise a Whole-of-Society approach in an ABS-compliant biotrade sector that meet multiple GBF targets (e.g. 5, 9, 13, 15, 21, 22).

Annex 1: Agenda

Monday 3 February 2025

Introduction	
9.00 – 10.30	Technical introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives; agenda; getting to know each other • The ABS Capacity Development Initiative and BioInnovation Africa
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee / Tea
11.00 – 12.30	Official opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by host, partners, and donor representatives Initial overview of COP 16 / MOP 5 outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input by SCBD: Key ABS and Biotrade related decisions • ITPGRFA and African perspectives
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
COP 16 / MOP 5 orientation	
14.00 – 15.30	Nagoya Protocol Capacity Development Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: What's new? • Training modules for ABS and Biotrade implementation • Discussion: Capacity development priorities for achieving Target 13
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee / Tea
16.00 – 17.30	NBSAPs as a vehicle to implement the GBF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: Mainstreaming ABS and Biotrade in current NBSAP revisions • Panel discussion: Country experiences in NBSAP revision processes • Exchanges between panel and plenary
18.00	Reception hosted by UNEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input: The GEF 8 NBSAP Update and 7th National Report Project (main room) • Reception (outdoors)

Tuesday 4 February 2025

ABS Implementation in Africa	
9.00 – 10.30	Current status of ABS implementation in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: Status of ABS implementation and support needs in Africa • Success factors and challenges: Practical examples and insights
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee / Tea
11.00 – 12.30	The interface Nagoya Protocol – International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: ABS implementation links between the NP and the ITPGRFA • Perspectives on enhancing the functioning of the Treaty MLS • Q&A and discussion
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
Creating an enabling environment	
14.00 – 15.30	Understanding valorisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: Valorisation in different sectors and business models • Partnerships in valorisation: Examples and insights • Q&A and discussion
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee / Tea
16.00 – 17.30	Deep dive: Baobab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African and European views on Baobab • Input: Baobab value chains in and beyond Senegal Introduction to the field trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline: Where we go, times, logistics etc • Research questions for the field trip day

Wednesday 5 February 2025

Biotrade and ABS in practice: Field trip	
9.00 – 15.30	Field trip to Thiès <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopover at baobab forest, with local explanations • Thiès factory visit, Baobab des Saveurs • Lunch in Thiès (lunch packs) • Return to hotel
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee / Tea
16.00 – 18.00	Baobab Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition of baobab and other natural products • Individual and informal exchanges
16.30 – 17.00 & 17.30 – 18.00	Example of first-hand experiences in developing a model for Biotrade blended finance" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input in parallel to the fair (main room) (will be given twice; participants can decide which slot to visit)
18.00	Joint reception / dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together with participants of the African Baobab Alliance (ABA) conference

Thursday 6 February 2025

'Public-Private Day' – in cooperation with the ABA Conference	
8.00 – 10.30	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives; agenda; getting to know each other <p>ABS, Baobab and Biotrade – regulators' and practitioners' perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input: ABS issues of relevance to the baobab sector Panel discussion: Implications of different regulatory frameworks
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee / Tea
11.00 – 12.30	<p>Multi-stakeholder partnerships in conservation and sustainable management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview input: Pan African resource monitoring Panel discussion: Lessons and good practices with the example of Baobab Exchanges between panel and plenary
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.45	<p>Multi-stakeholder partnerships for valorisation and ABS compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview input, illustrated with examples Panel discussion: Public-private cooperation and collaboration Exchanges between panel and plenary <p>Closure of the joint day</p>
15.45 – 16.15	Coffee / Tea

Friday 7 February 2025

Cooperation and collaboration	
9.00 – 10.30	<p>Establishing partnerships for ABS compliant R&D, value chain development and conservation in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input: Examples of existing, practical experiences Q&A and discussion
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee / Tea
Reflection	
11.00 – 12.30	<p>Next steps and milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takeaways from the week - Projects
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takeaways from the week – Institutions and organisation <p>Evaluation</p> <p>Closure</p>
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee / Tea – End of Workshop

Annex 2: List of Presentations with Links

Monday 3 February 2025

Introduction
Technical introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katrin Münch and Friedrich zur Heide - The ABS Capacity Development Initiative and BioInnovation Africa
Initial overview of COP 16 / MOP 5 outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taukondjo Shikongo - Outcomes of CBD COP 16 most relevant for the work of the ABS Initiative
COP 16 / MOP 5 orientation
Nagoya Protocol Capacity Development Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hartmut Meyer - Capacity-building and development action plan • Danièle Fouth, Ezra Bender and Dagmar Honsbein - BioInnovation Academy: Modules de Formation pour la mise en oeuvre de l'APA et du Biocommerce
NBSAPs as a vehicle to implement the GBF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suhel al-Janabi – Mainstreaming: Consideration of ABS and BioTrade in NBSAPs and sectoral policies
Reception hosted by UNEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya McGregor - The GEF 8 NBSAP Update and 7th National Report Project: EN / FR

Tuesday 4 February 2025

ABS Implementation in Africa
Current status of ABS implementation in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lena di Carlo and Taukondjo Shikongo - Review of the 2025 information in the ABS Clearing House: Focus on African countries • Babacar Ngor Youm - Expériences de mise en oeuvre de l'APA en Afrique: Senegal • Aurélie Taylor Dingom - Experiences in implementing ABS in Africa: Cameroon • Abiyot Berhanu - Experiences in implementing ABS in Africa: Ethiopia
The interface Nagoya Protocol – International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Nnadozie - Overview of the ITPGRFA and its Multilateral Systems (MLS) of ABS
Creating an enabling environment
Understanding valorisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyril Lombard and Suhel al-Janabi - Understanding Valorisation: Focus on value chains • Nirina Olivier Rakotoson - Recherche et développement : l'approche up'cycling (KADOO) in Madagascar • Norah Ngatjizeko - Valorisation in different sectors and business models: The case of devil's claw in Namibia
Deep dive: Baobab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathrin Meinhold - Overview of baobab value chains

Wednesday 5 February 2025

Biotrade and ABS in practice: Field trip and baobab fair
Example of first-hand experiences in developing a model for Biotrade blended finance"
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friedrich zur Heide, Dagmar Honsbein and Cyril Lombard: Financing instruments and gaps for SMMEs (MSMEs) in the biotrade sector study: A view on the Southern African Region• Dagmar Honsbein and Cyril Lombard: Financing Biotrade: Support on mapping, analysing and advising on financial instruments in South Africa and Namibia

Thursday 6 February 2025

'Public-Private Day' – in cooperation with the ABA Conference
ABS, Baobab and Biotrade – regulators' and practitioners' perspectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shamiso Mungwashu - ABS compliance in the baobab sector: A study by the African Baobab Alliance
Multi-stakeholder partnerships in conservation and sustainable management
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Venter - Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Baobab across Africa
Multi-stakeholder partnerships for valorisation and ABS compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anja Teschner - Collaborations multipartites pour la valorisation et le respect de l'APA: Un Aperçu

Friday 7 February 2025

Cooperation and collaboration
Establishing partnerships for ABS compliant R&D, value chain development and conservation in Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ulrich Feiter - The Buchu Sector Wide Benefit Sharing Agreement in South Africa: History - Challenges - Outcomes• Maria Julia Oliva - Partnership for sustainable sourcing in Centella• Agnes Tsamases - The Kunene Conservancies Indigenous Natural Products Trust (KCINP Trust) T/A SCENTS OF NAMIBIA