



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/ICNP/2/INF/6
29 May 2012

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OPEN-ENDED AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE FOR THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON
ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR
AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS
ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION

Second meeting

New Delhi, 2-6 July 2012

Item 4.3 of the provisional agenda*

**SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION ON AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES REGARDING
THE IMPORTANCE OF GENETIC RESOURCES AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
ASSOCIATED WITH GENETIC RESOURCES AND RELATED ACCESS AND
BENEFIT-SHARING ISSUES**

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization discussed “measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit-sharing issues (Article 21)”.
2. In preparation for the consideration of this item by the Intergovernmental Committee at its first meeting, the Executive Secretary prepared a draft awareness-raising strategy to support Parties to effectively implement Article 21 of the Nagoya Protocol (UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/5), as well as an information document providing an overview of experiences and initiatives on awareness-raising on access and benefit-sharing and under different multilateral environmental agreements (UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/INF/2). The strategy and the information document were prepared taking into consideration information received by Parties, other Governments, international organizations, indigenous and local community organizations and relevant stakeholders sent to the Secretariat prior to the meeting.
3. The outcomes of the discussions and the recommendations of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on awareness-raising are contained in the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/8).
4. In recommendation 1/3, the Intergovernmental Committee invited Parties, other Governments, international organizations, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders to submit views to the Executive Secretary on the proposed elements of an awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol as contained in the annex of document UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/5, as well as information on awareness-raising activities regarding the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge

* UNEP/CBD/ICNP/2/1.

associated with genetic resources and related access and benefit-sharing issues, including lessons learned from existing experience in this regard.

5. In the same recommendation, the Intergovernmental Committee also requested the Executive Secretary to revise the proposed elements of the awareness raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol, taking into account views expressed at the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, as well as the submissions received, for the consideration of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee. The draft awareness-raising strategy has been revised in light of the comments received and is made available as document UNEP/CBD/ICNP/2/11.

6. The information contained in the submissions with respect to awareness-raising activities, including lessons learned from existing experience in this regard, has been synthesized in the current note by the Executive Secretary and is meant to assist the Intergovernmental Committee in its deliberations on awareness-raising, including the discussions related to the awareness-raising strategy.

II. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED ON AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM EXISTING EXPERIENCE

7. The information contained in this section is divided on the basis of the different types of awareness-raising activities identified and is additional to the information contained in document UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/INF/2 prepared for the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on past and ongoing awareness-raising activities carried-out at the national and regional levels, as well as lessons learned from existing experience in this regard.

8. As of 24 January 2012, the Executive Secretary had received submissions on awareness-raising from Canada, China, Ecuador, the European Union, Mexico, Thailand and the Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club. These submissions are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/icnp2/submissions/>.

9. In addition, a submission from the Swiss Biodiversity Forum of the Swiss Academy of Sciences is made available as an information document: UNEP/CBD/ICNP/2/INF/5.

10. In these submissions, France and Belgium, as Member States of the European Union, Mexico, and Thailand provided information on specific awareness-raising activities being carried out in their respective countries. In addition, information on the activities carried-out by the multi-donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative funded by the Governments of Germany, Norway, Denmark, the European Union (Commission) and the Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie was contained in the submission from the European Union.

11. The submissions from Canada, China, Ecuador and the Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club did not provide information on specific awareness-raising activities, but instead provided views on the proposed elements of an awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol. A compilation of these views submitted to the Secretariat is included in section II-B of document UNEP/CBD/ICNP/2/11.

Educational activities, workshops, dialogues, consultations and information materials

12. Educational activities, such as dialogues, workshops and training sessions, for governmental representatives and/or with stakeholders to raise awareness of the Nagoya Protocol and to discuss effective implementation at the national and regional levels have been organized in a number of countries. Several countries have also developed educational tools and information materials to assist in building the awareness of the Nagoya Protocol.

Consultations, dialogues, seminars and workshops

13. In Thailand, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, the institution acting as Thailand's National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity, in cooperation with several universities in different regions of Thailand organized a series of workshops from April to August 2011 to build awareness and brainstorm on the Nagoya Protocol and Thailand's

ABS Regulation. These workshops followed the approval of the Regulation by Thailand's Cabinet. The workshops were attended by representatives from local governmental administrations, academic institutions, NGOs and local communities.

14. In addition, several Thai regulating agencies initiated activities to support public awareness and increase understanding of access and benefit-sharing issues within their agencies, through workshops and meetings, such as the Department of Livestock Development, the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, the Department of Fisheries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

15. In France, the Ministry of Ecology and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly organized two one-day workshops, targeting the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries, the research community, as well as civil society representatives:

(a) The first workshop, held in March 2010, aimed to widely inform stakeholders about the potential implications of the Nagoya Protocol and exchange views with the actors concerned regarding future obligations; and

(b) The second workshop, held in February 2011, aimed to give industries and research representatives a first interpretation of the obligations arising from the Nagoya Protocol. This workshop was attended by more than 50 participants. A synthesis on the Nagoya Protocol was distributed (in French) by the Ministry.¹

16. The French Ministry of Ecology and the Ministry in charge of Overseas Territories, given its administrative organization specificities, has also jointly organized a one day Conference dedicated to ABS within the French overseas territories in June 2011.²

17. Belgium, since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, has informed and consulted the different relevant administrations and stakeholders on its potential implications through contact group sessions and stakeholder consultations. Belgium is also preparing an impact study on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and organizing two stakeholder workshops during the first half of 2012 as part of this study. The aim of the workshops is to identify the wide range of stakeholders concerned with the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Belgium, to make them aware of the content of the Protocol and its obligations, and to give stakeholders the possibility to explain how they think the implementation of the Protocol will affect them.³

18. Over the last 15 years, Belgium has worked in raising the awareness of the importance of autochthon genetic resources of bushes and trees. The Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests organized conferences, workshops and developed study material for different government agencies, local administrations and forest owners on the importance of autochthone genetic bush and tree material, and on possible measures and initiatives to protect these.⁴

19. In Mexico, consultations with indigenous peoples⁵ were organized by the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in 2008. The objective of the consultations was to identify the knowledge, practices, cultural expressions, and natural, biological, and genetic resources, indigenous peoples want to protect, and to determine how to protect these resources. The consultation process is expected both to facilitate the identification of the traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, and biological and genetic resources which are at risk, and to shed light on what can be done by the Mexican State and by indigenous peoples to ensure the protection of these resources.

¹ See: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/1-MEDDTL-Synthese-Protocole-Nagoya.pdf>

² "Key Players on ABS" can be seen at: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Access-aux-ressources-genetiques-et-23403.html>

³ The terms of reference of the study is available at: <http://enot.publicprocurement.be/enot-war/preViewNotice.do?noticeId=104152>

⁴ See: http://www.vbv.be/projecten/plantvanhier/Vademecum_PlantVanHier_web.pdf

⁵ National Consultation of Indigenous Peoples of Mexico Regarding Protection Mechanisms for Their Traditional Knowledge, Cultural Expressions, and Natural, Biological, and Genetic Resources

20. Under the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the following workshops for dialogue and joint learning were organized:⁶

(a) Yearly pan-African and sub-regional capacity development workshops which have enabled African ABS focal points and other stakeholders to, e.g., learn from exchanging national-level experiences with ABS cases and implementation, receive expert input and training on a variety of issues and develop joint recommendations for the African group in international negotiations; and

(b) Thematic workshops at the pan-African level to explore ABS interfaces, e.g., ABS and Communication (with ABS focal points and communication experts), ABS and Forests (with ABS focal points, national forest administrators and other forestry experts), Business Dialogue (with ABS focal points and user-country business representatives), and ABS and Intellectual Property Rights (with ABS focal points and IP experts).

Training sessions

21. In France, since the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, many French industries and research federations are organizing seminars to increase awareness on ABS issues. Specific activities include:

(a) In October 2011, the French Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries organized a seminar to inform member companies on the Nagoya Protocol;

(b) In September 2011, a seminar on the management of genetic resources was organized by the Foundation on Biodiversity Research. The seminar included one round table discussion dedicated to ABS during which dialogues on the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations took place; and

(c) The Nagoya Protocol was also discussed during a meeting of the EU Task force on botanic gardens held in September 2011.

22. The ABS Capacity Development Initiative has also carried out the following CEPA-related trainings:

(a) Negotiation skills for ABS. Target group African ABS focal points and negotiators (5 days, pre-Nagoya);

(b) Short training session on (i) Influencing skills; (ii) Communicating with the Media; and (iii) Strategic communication. Target group: African focal points (3 hours each, in the scope of a larger CEPA workshop, pre-Nagoya);

(c) Advanced facilitation skills for large-group and/or multi-stakeholder workshops. Target group: African facilitators (5 days, post-Nagoya); and

(d) Designing and implementing multi-stakeholder dialogue processes. Target group: African ABS focal points (3 days, post-Nagoya).

⁶ All workshops, trainings and products of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative are documented and available at www.abs-africa.info.

23. In Belgium, the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment will organize in 2012 biodiversity training sessions for four target groups concerned with the implementation of the sections ‘economy’ and ‘transport’ of the Federal Plan for the integration of biodiversity in four key sectors. One of these target groups is the Federal Ministry of Economy, in particular DG market regulation, *inter alia*, people dealing with intellectual property issues. The training sessions for this specific target group will deal with the concept of access and benefit-sharing, and provide information on the Nagoya Protocol and its implications in Belgium.

Educational and information materials on ABS

24. In Thailand, information on the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol and Thailand’s ABS Regulation has been distributed to all relevant agencies and organizations for their information, suggestion and input for potential implementation.

25. Mexico promotes the knowledge of biodiversity through various institutions, such as CONABIO (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity). The CONABIO online portal has a section devoted to the discovery of Mexico’s biodiversity.⁷ It also has a special section for children called “Wonderland”.⁸ CONABIO’s mission is to promote, coordinate, support, and carry out activities aiming to teach about biodiversity and about the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the benefit of society.

26. Under the ABS Capacity Development Initiative several CEPA-products have been developed, including:

(a) *ABS spoken here?*, a paper outlining some key questions and hypotheses, designed to help ABS focal points and others to be aware of the challenges of ABS CEPA;

(b) *ABS simply explained*, a five minute animated film that explains core ABS concepts and the Nagoya Protocol in straightforward language (made available in English, French and Spanish);

(c) Still under development: *Strategic communication of ABS*, a guide for national focal points and others who are in charge of implementing ABS at the national level.⁹

Others

27. In Thailand, networks have been created to increase the awareness of researchers and regulators on ABS issues, status and regulations, as well as to strengthen their capacity in developing their own ABS regulations and mechanisms.

28. In September 2010, a study on the “Relevance and feasibility of legal and institutional ABS frameworks within French territories overseas” was initiated by the French Ministry of Ecology and conducted by the French Foundation for Biodiversity Research. Proposals on an ABS framework were made by a panel of independent experts and are being discussed internally among Ministries concerned.¹⁰

29. The Fonds français pour l’environnement (FFEM), France’s Environment Fund, is aiming at providing financial support to a regional African ABS project, initiated by PhytoTrade and covering a number of African countries, with a view to develop pathways of genetic resources and traditional knowledge common to the countries of Southern Africa.

⁷ See: <http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/>

⁸ See: http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/ninos/ninos_ingles.html

⁹ A Power Point presentation, providing an outline of the guide, was presented at a Side Event of ICNPI in Montreal. The presentation is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/side-events/ICNPI/abs-cepa-side-event.pdf>.

¹⁰ Information on the results of the study is available (in French only) at: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Pertinence-et-faisabilite-de.html>.