



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
VIETNAM ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION

10<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

**Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif**

*Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Program  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada – H2Y 1N9*

Dear Mr Djoghlaif,

**Subject: Submission of information and views in accordance with Decision X/1 on Access and Benefit-sharing**

In reference to the notification of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (Ref.: SCBD/ABS/VN/SG/74553), Vietnam Environment Administration, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in role of the National Focal Point of the Convention on Biological Diversity, has conducted an assessment on capacity-building needs, and thereby identify the most urgent needs of the country in terms of capacity building on access and benefit-sharing:

*(1) Development of National Legal Framework*

Developing National Legal Framework on ABS in conformity with CBD articles on Access and Benefit-sharing and the Biodiversity Law of Vietnam (2008) in a participatory manner through establishment of an expert working group and development of a framework that will be approved by the Government containing particular rules and regulations on Prior Informed Consent, Mutually Agreed Terms, Material Transfer Agreements, Benefit sharing agreements, etc.

*(2) Institutional capacity building at all levels*

Conducting training needs assessment and designing a training program on particular topics relevant to access and benefit sharing to be implemented at central, provincial and local levels. Capacity building of central and local government, corporate sector, community facilitators, etc. shall include topics on Governance of access and benefit sharing and traditional knowledge; Contract negotiation; Running of National Resource Verification System; Monitoring, enforcement regulations & 'green customs'. Other technical trainings shall focus on Taxonomy, prototype & genetic resources, Sustainable sampling & bio-prospecting, Exchange visits with international research institutions, Training on valuation of monetary and non-monetary benefits of bio-prospecting, etc.

*(3) Enhancing public awareness on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing*

Additionally, developing awareness strategy on access and benefit sharing targeting media and public relation (PR) & beneficiary communities (indigenous/local people, businesses, commercial sectors, and local authorities; for example, a series of awareness-raising materials (films, posters, booklets, bulletins, and etc.) shall be prepared and disseminated to target groups; a community based awareness programme on ABS is to be developed in the areas of high conservation value for indigenous genetic resources; an internet-based forum for ministerial and local staffs and interested people is to be developed and moderated.





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*(4) Learning from practical and successful models on access and benefit-sharing conducted at national and international levels*

Building local capacity of providers to negotiate ABS agreements and applying national standards of agreement/contract including negotiation types, timing, distribution of benefits, mechanisms of benefit sharing; and piloting inventory & development of peoples'/community biodiversity registers at local level.

With regard to the recently adopted Nagoya Protocol on ABS, Vietnam highly appreciates endeavors and efforts of the Executive Secretary and CBD Secretariat as a whole in preparation and conduction of the coming meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on ABS. In principle, Vietnam highly agrees with the measures set-out in Annex II to Decision X/1. At national level, Vietnam has designated a national focal point to participate in the Intergovernmental Committee and established an inter-ministerial task force to analyze and assess the possibilities to ratify Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Vietnam.

On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Secretariat for your cooperation. I look forward to receiving your continuous support in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation and support,

Yours sincerely,



**Bui Cach Tuyen**

*CBD National Focal Point*

*Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment*

*Director General of Vietnam Environment Administration*