



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES
AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF
BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION

First meeting

Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 13-17 October 2014

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization establishes an Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House) as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

2. Thanks to the generous contribution of the European Union, a capacity-building workshop on the ABS Clearing-House was held on 12 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, back-to-back with the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 1) in order to officially launch the operational phase of the ABS Clearing-House and conduct hands-on training,

B. Attendance

3. CBD National Focal Points, ICNP Focal Points, indigenous and local community organizations, international organizations and relevant stakeholders were invited to attend the workshop by notification 2014-110 (Ref. No. SCBD/ABS/SBG/NAD/83881) of 8 September 2014. Approximately 100 participants from all United Nations regions, including representatives from indigenous and local communities, took part in the activity.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 12 October 2014, by Mr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention. Mr. Dias welcomed the participants to the workshop and thanked the European Union for their generous financial support in making the workshop possible. He also thanked the Governments of Switzerland and Germany, as well as the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the European Union for their contributions to the development of the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House.

5. He called the attention to the fact that the 12 October 2014 marked the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and emphasized that this was a significant step in promoting more trust between users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and an opportunity for valuing the contribution of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

6. He also noted the importance of the ABS Clearing-House as a key tool in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, stressing that there was still work that needed to be done. Mr. Dias explained that the experience and feedback of participants to the workshop would greatly contribute to making the ABS Clearing-House a user-friendly tool capable of adapting to national circumstances.

7. Following the opening remarks, Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda, Senior Programme Officer highlighted the importance of the ABS Clearing-House as an essential component in ensuring the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, which provides that by 2015 the Nagoya Protocol is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation. He also provided statistics about the progress on information exchange of the ABS Clearing-House.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF THE ABS CLEARING-HOUSE

8. Mr. Matthew Dias, Programme Officer for the ABS Clearing-House, gave a conceptual overview of the ABS Clearing-House and provided an explanation of the implications of the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol for the ABS Clearing House. He explained that with the entry into force of the Protocol, all national records published in the central portal become official information, cleared and validated by the duly designated publishing authorities.

9. He presented the registration and search functions and the proposed modalities of operation for the ABS Clearing-House, including: the different common formats, the different user roles (publishing authority and national authorized users), workflow and publishing procedures, and an introduction to the different types of records (national and reference records).

10. He also provided statistics about the outreach and engagement campaign being conducted by the Secretariat to promote participation and publication of information by countries on the ABS Clearing-House. He also stressed the availability of remote technical assistance and capacity-building activities options for the ABS Clearing-House such as webinars and other internet-based communication tools available to all countries upon request.

11. Following the conceptual presentation, Mr. Matthew Dias conducted an interactive e-learning module serving as a demonstration of the role of the ABS Clearing-House in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, with the active participation of delegates from different countries.

ITEM 3. REPORT OF PROGRESS MADE ON THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

12. Under this item, Ms. Beatriz Gomez Castro, Associate Programme Officer, introduced the report of the progress made on the ABS Clearing-House, including: description of the work made under the pilot phase, capacity-building initiatives, outreach and engagement campaign, issues for consideration by COP-MOP 1, and indicative priorities for the next biennium.

ITEM 4. DEMONSTRATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE PLATFORM

13. The Secretariat provided information on how to search information through the online platform through a series of exercises. The demonstration provided different alternatives in searching for information in the ABS Clearing-House.

14. Mr. Matthew Dias presented each common format for registering information and participants took part in hands-on training either by registering their national information (if available) or by introducing mock registers as draft records. Pursuant to notification 2014-110, participants were encouraged to bring personal computers and existing national information relevant to the registration of common formats into the ABS Clearing-House. During the hands-on training exercises, the Secretariat provided personal assistance to participants.

ITEM 5. PROVISION OF FEEDBACK ON THE ABS CLEARING-HOUSE

15. Participants were invited to submit feedback through an online questionnaire. As noted by the Secretariat in earlier presentations and statements, feedback from users of the ABS Clearing-House provided essential information in order to adapt the ABS Clearing-House to national circumstances and the needs of Parties and others. All comments and questions were noted by the Secretariat. A summary of the feedback received is reflected in the annex to the report.

16. In the first section of the feedback form participants were asked to complete questions that aimed to evaluate their satisfaction with the quality of the activities, usefulness of the workshop and the level of confidence in navigating through the ABS Clearing-House platform. Most of the participants rated the activities “good”, the workshop “very useful”, and felt “very confident” to navigate through the platform.

17. In the second section, they were asked to provide feedback on the user-friendliness of the website. Overall, participants found that registering and searching information and browsing country profiles was “very user-friendly”.

18. Overall, the participants emphasized the importance of doing capacity-building in smaller groups and the need for full interpretation and the translation of the capacity-building materials in all United Nations languages during the workshop.

19. Participants also noted the need for translation of the ABS Clearing-House in all United Nations languages to ensure full participation of countries and other users.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

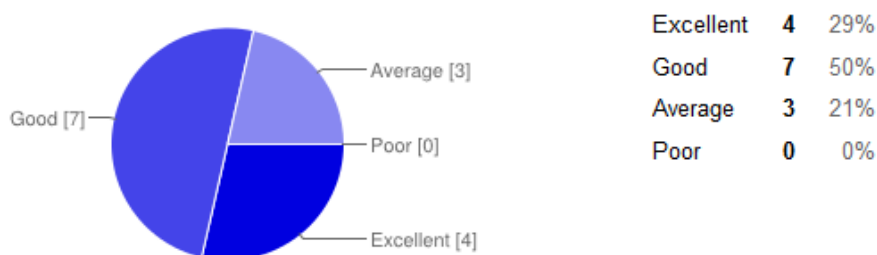
20. Following closing remarks by Mr. Matthew Dias, the workshop was closed at 5.00 p.m., 12 October 2014.

Annex

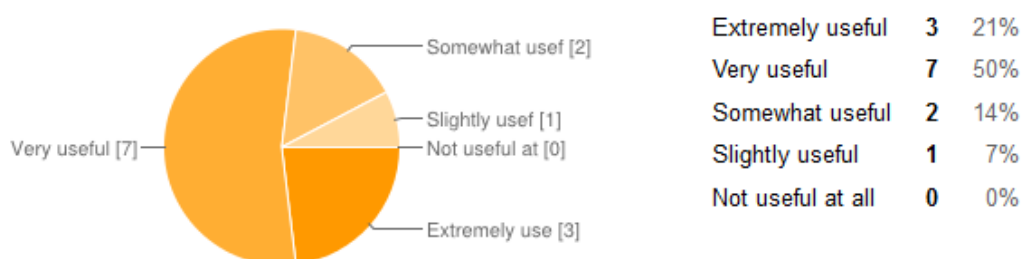
SUMMARY OF THE FEEDBACK RECEIVED

Section 1

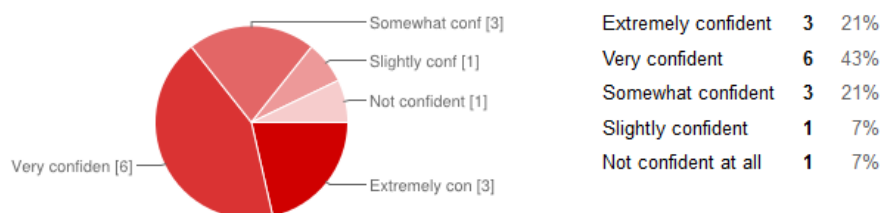
How would you rate the quality of the activities during the workshop?



Did you find the workshop activities useful for your work overall?

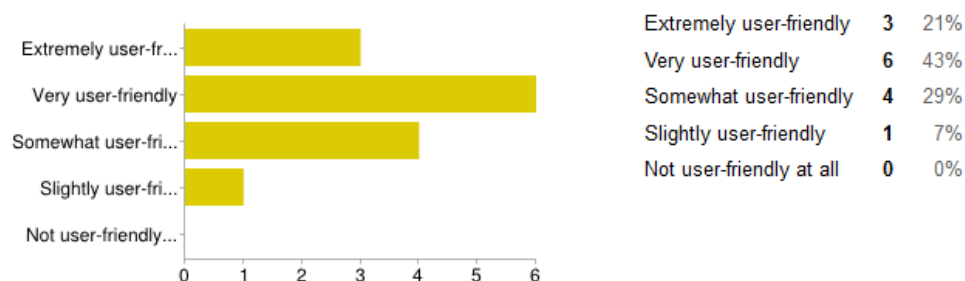


How confident do you feel to navigate through the ABS-CH platform and register your national information?

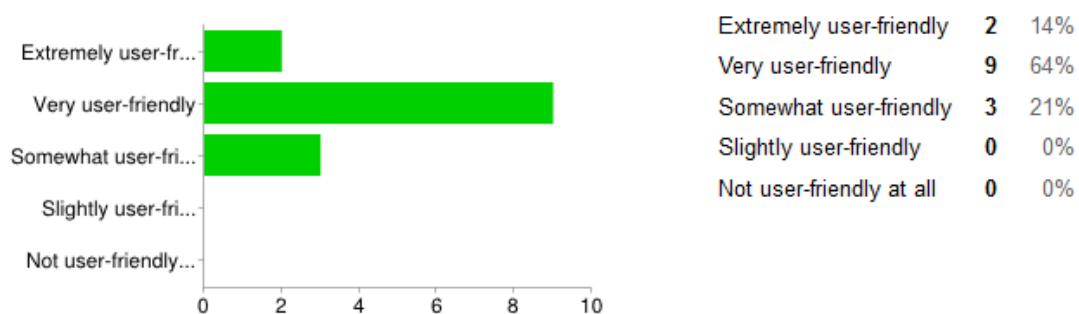


Section 2

finding information on the ABS-CH platform? [How user-friendly is the ABS-CH platform in terms of...]



registering information on the ABS-CH platform? [How user-friendly is the ABS-CH platform in terms of...]



browsing country profiles? [How user-friendly is the ABS-CH platform in terms of...]

