

# Introduction to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House [absch.cbd.int](http://absch.cbd.int)

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Information Management Officer at the SCBD



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# Article 14

## of the Nagoya Protocol

### Article

## 14

### **THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE AND INFORMATION-SHARING**

1. An Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House is hereby established as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention. It shall serve as a means for sharing of information related to access and benefit-sharing. In particular, it shall provide access to information made available by each Party relevant to the implementation of this Protocol.
2. Without prejudice to the protection of confidential information, each Party shall make available to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House any information required by this Protocol, as well as information required pursuant to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol. The information shall include:
  - (a) Legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing;
  - (b) Information on the national focal point and competent national authority or authorities; and
  - (c) Permits or their equivalent issued at the time of access as evidence of the decision to grant prior informed consent and of the establishment of mutually agreed terms.
3. Additional information, if available and as appropriate, may include:
  - (a) Relevant competent authorities of indigenous and local communities, and information as so decided;
  - (b) Model contractual clauses;
  - (c) Methods and tools developed to monitor genetic resources; and
  - (d) Codes of conduct and best practices.
4. The modalities of the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, including reports on its activities, shall be considered and decided upon by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol at its first meeting, and kept under review thereafter.



## **Article 14.1**

Establishes the ABS-CH  
as part of the CHM

Main function is to  
**facilitate the exchange  
of ABS relevant  
information**

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## Article 14.2

The main information that is to be shared:

- a) ABS Measure
- b) FPs and CNAs
- c) Permits and their equivalents

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# Article 14.3

## Additional Information:

- a) ILC CNA and info
- b) Model contractual clauses
- c) Tools for monitoring GR
- d) Codes of conduct and best practices

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facilitate the  
implementation  
of the NP

**Main function**  
facilitate exchange  
of relevant  
information

**the goal of the  
ABS-CH**

- ✓ legal certainty, clarity, transparency
- ✓ fair and non-arbitrary rules and procedures
- ✓ monitoring to ensure compliance

# How does the ABS-CH work?



[The Convention](#) [Cartagena Protocol](#) [Nagoya Protocol](#) [Programmes](#) [Information](#) [Secretariat](#)

## ABSCH THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

[HOME](#) [SEARCH](#) [SUBMIT](#) [COUNTRY INFORMATION](#)

[CBD](#) > [ABSCH](#)

The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house (ABSCH) is a platform for exchanging information on ABS and a key implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. [read more](#)

## About the Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and

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# Finding Information

No need for an account to search information on the ABS-CH

The screenshot displays the ABSCH (The Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House) website interface. The top navigation bar includes links to 'The Convention', 'Cartagena Protocol', 'Nagoya Protocol', 'Programmes', 'Information', and 'Secretariat'. The main header features the ABSCH logo and the text 'THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE'. A red circle highlights the 'SEARCH' button in the top navigation bar. Another red circle highlights the 'COUNTRY INFORMATION' link in the main navigation bar. The left sidebar contains 'Search Filters' with a 'Keyword' input field and a list of filters under 'Nagoya Protocol Party Status' (Party, Non-Party), 'National Records' (Legislative, administrative or policy measures, National Focal Points, Competent National Authorities, National Websites and Databases, Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance, Checkpoints, Checkpoint Communiqués), and 'Reference Records' (Virtual Library Records, Meetings & Meeting Outcomes, Notifications, Press Releases, Statements, News). The main content area shows a list of countries with a 'Select a country' dropdown. A red circle highlights the 'COUNTRY INFORMATION' link in the main navigation bar. The right sidebar displays information for Belarus, including the date of accession (26 JUN 2014) and the date of entry into force (12 OCT 2014). The 'National Focal Points (NFP)' section lists 'Ms. Natalya Minchenko' as the ABS National Focal Point. The 'Competent National Authorities (CNA)' section lists the 'National Coordination Centre for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing' and the 'Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus'. The 'Legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing (MSR)' section shows a table of measures.

**Search Filters**

Keyword

**Nagoya Protocol Party Status**

- Party
- Non-Party

**National Records**

- Legislative, administrative or policy measures (52)
- National Focal Points (402)
- Competent National Authorities (22)
- National Websites and Databases (11)
- Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (0)
- Checkpoints (6)
- Checkpoint Communiqués (0)

**Reference Records**

- Virtual Library Records (71)
- Meetings & Meeting Outcomes (74)
- Notifications (254)
- Press Releases (75)
- Statements (0)
- News (417)

**Thematic Areas**

**Countries**

**Regions**

**ABSCH** THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

HOME SEARCH SUBMIT COUNTRY INFORMATION

CBD > ABSCH > Search

Found 1384 1 of 56 First « « Prev 1

**NEWS**

- Namibia: Need for Benefit Sharing On Genetic Resources - Shifeta**  
Indigenous products extracted from tissues of naturally terrestrial plants or micro-organisms term growth of approximately N\$400 million per annum.

**URUGUAY ABS NATIONAL FOCAL POINT**

- Ms. Maria del Huerto Arcaus**  
Subdirectora, Dirección de Medio Ambiente, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

**ALBANIA CBD PRIMARY FOCAL POINT**

- Mr. Alqi Bilako**  
Secretary General, Ministry of Environment

**URUGUAY CBD PRIMARY FOCAL POINT**

- Emb. José Luis Remedi**  
Director, Dirección de Medio Ambiente, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

**INDONESIA ABS NATIONAL FOCAL POINT**

- Dr. Tachrir Fathoni**  
Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, Ministry of Environment

**SURINAME ABS/CBD FOCAL POINT**

- Dr. Haydi J. Berrenstein**  
National Coordinator for Environmental Policy, Department of National Security/Coordination

**GERMANY CBD PRIMARY FOCAL POINT**

- Dr. Almuth Ostermeyer-Schlöder**  
Head of Division N I 4, International Cooperation on Biodiversity, Federal Ministry for the Environment

**BELARUS LEGISLATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE OR POLICY MEASURES**

- Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus "On Accession"**  
Decree prescribes to accede to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) following limitation: "The Republic of Belarus on the basis of Article XV of the Treaty referred to in paragraph 2.1.2 (a) of Annex 3 to the Treaty on the taking of birds belonging to different stages of their breeding and brood rearing and during their journey to their breeding the p... more

**Select a country**

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia

**Belarus Party**

DATE OF ACCESSION: 26 JUN 2014  
DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE: 12 OCT 2014

**National Focal Points (NFP)**

- ABS National Focal Point**  
**Ms. Natalya Minchenko**  
Head  
Department of Biological and Landscape Diversity  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection  
10 Kollektornaya street  
Minsk 220048  
+375 17 200 53 34  
+375 17 200 53 34  
minchenkonataly@gmail.com  
n\_minchenko@tut.by

**National Databases and Websites (NDB)**

**Competent National Authorities (CNA)**

- Competent National Authority**  
**National Coordination Centre for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing**  
27 Akademicheskaya st.  
Minsk  
220072  
Belarus  
+375 17.284.0297  
E.Makeyeva@igc.by  
belarusnpabs@gmail.com
- Competent National Authority**  
**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus**  
10 Kollektornaya street  
Minsk  
220048  
Belarus  
minproos@mail.belpak.by

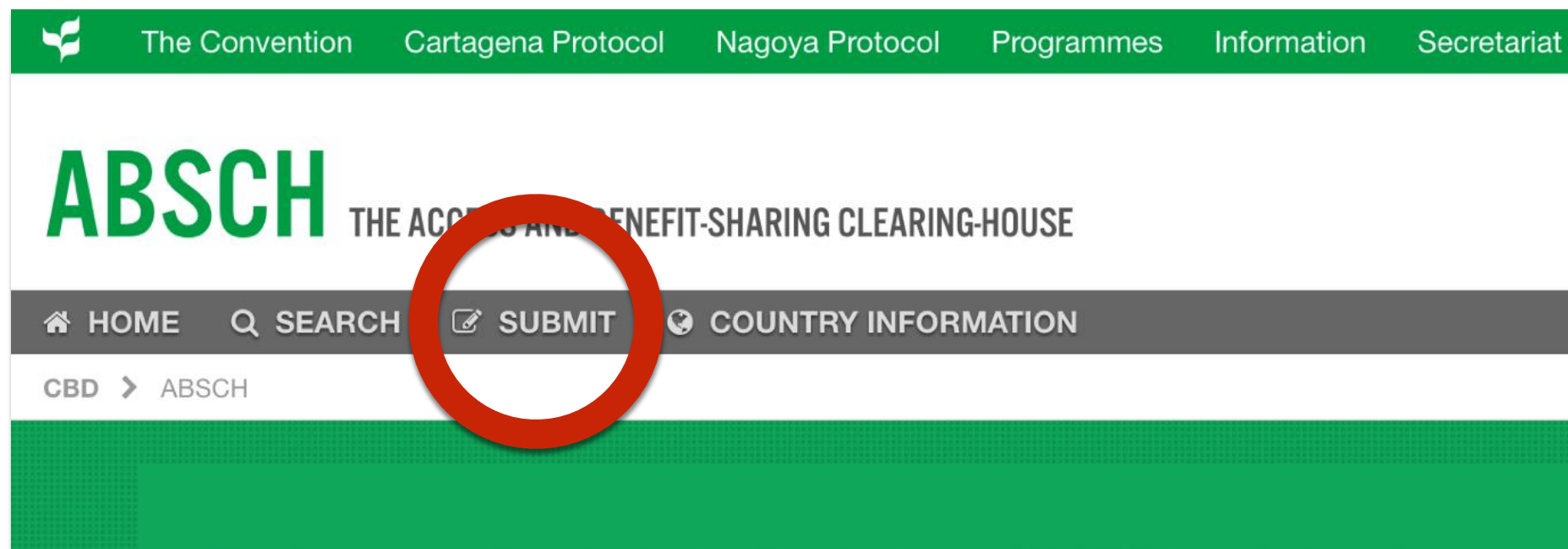
**Legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing (MSR)**

NAME	TYPE	STATUS	JURISDICTION	DATE
Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus "On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the International Treaty"	Law	Legally binding	National / Federal	31 Dec 2015
Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus "On Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the International Treaty"	Law	Legally binding	National / Federal	21 May 2014

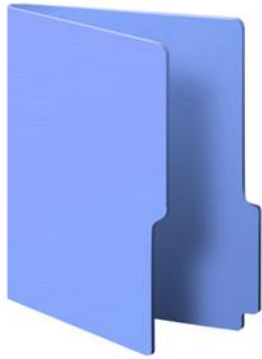


# Registering Functions

- **Publishing procedure** to ensure reliability of information made available through the ABS Clearing-House (roles + workflow)
- Availability of a “**private work space**” for publishing, creating, updating and deleting records (management center)
- Use of **common formats** and controlled vocabulary for submission of information with a view to facilitating consistent and harmonized searches in different languages
- Possible submission **online and offline**



# Two main types of records



## National Records

- Legislative, administrative and policy measures on ABS
- Competent National Authority/ies
- ABS Focal Points
- National ABS Website or Database
- Permit or its equivalent constituting an internationally recognized certificate of compliance / (Article 17.2)
- Checkpoint (Article 17.1(a))
- Checkpoint Communiqué (Article 17.1 (a)(iii))



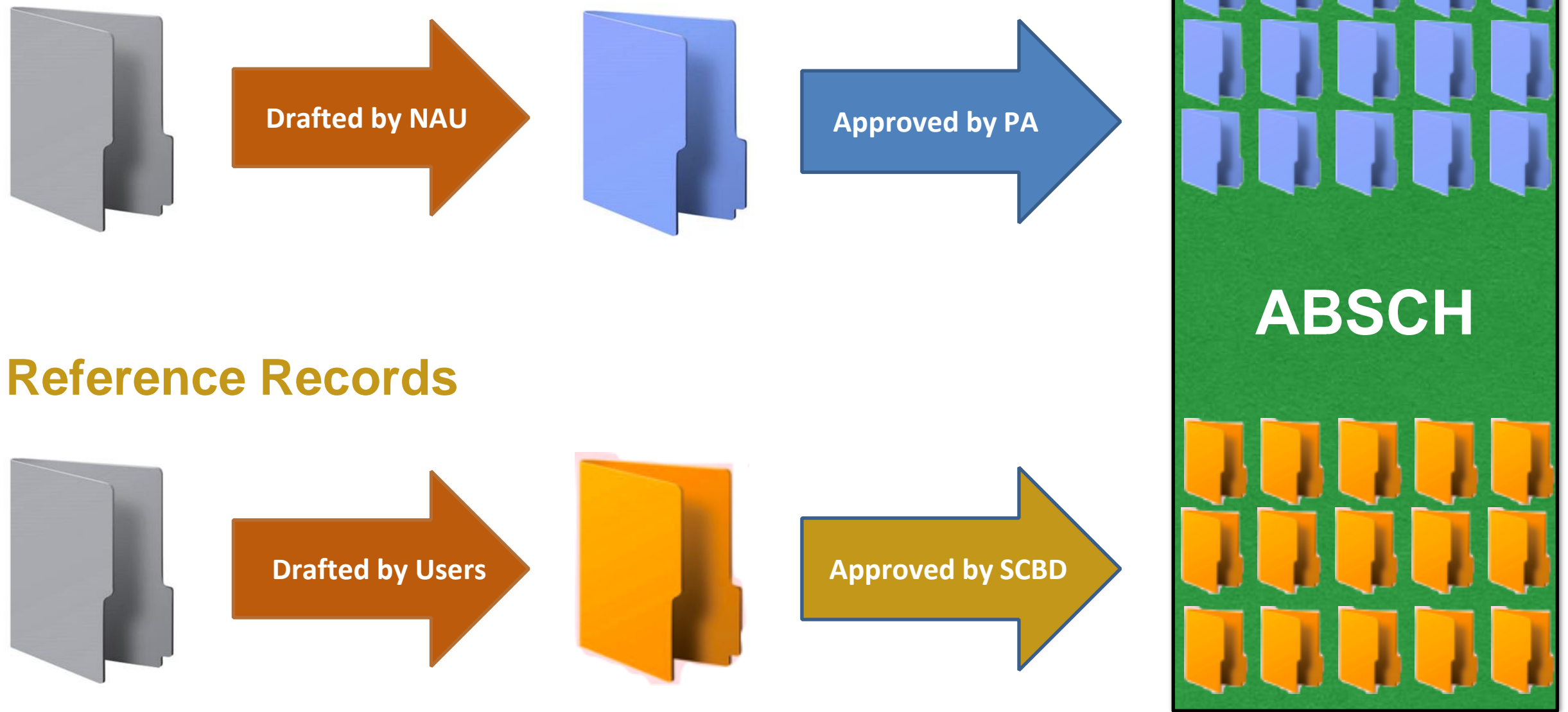
## Reference Records

- Virtual Library Resource + Capacity Building Tools
- Model contractual clauses
- Codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices
- CBD Info: News, Meetings, Notifications, Press Releases



# Workflow

## National Records



# How can I contribute?

## How does the ABSCH help?

**Governments:** By publishing national information on the ABS-CH, Parties and other governments help:

- **Users:** Find the information they need to access genetic resources and associated TK
- **Providers:** Find the necessary tools to monitor the utilization of these resources

By providing reliable information, the ABS-CH creates opportunities for the development of **ABS agreements and the sharing of benefits**

**Non-Parties** are encouraged to share all relevant ABS information through the ABS-CH



# How can I contribute?

## How does the ABSCH help me?

### Private sector and research institutions:

- Find reliable and up-to-date information on how to access GR and TK in the country profiles
- Can contribute to the ABS-CH by sharing **model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices** and access resources shared by others

# How can I contribute?

## How does the ABSCH help me?

### Indigenous and local communities

- Can use the ABS-CH to share information on how to access TK:
  - Community protocols, model contractual clauses and competent authorities of ILCs

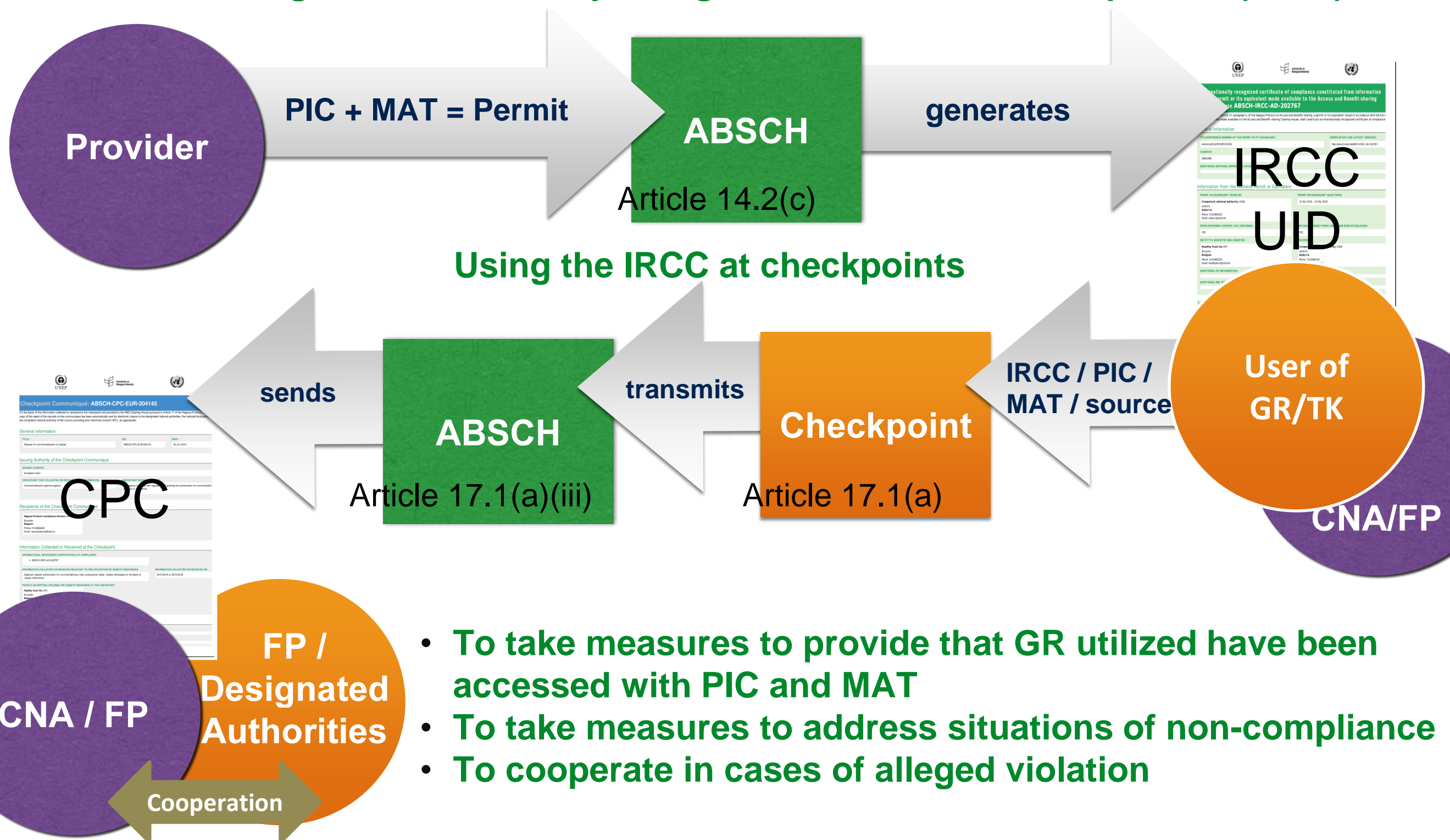
Providing information will increase the opportunities for the development of ABS agreements and the sharing of benefits

- Can access and contribute to the ABS-CH with awareness-raising and capacity building materials on the Nagoya Protocol in their own indigenous languages



# How does the ABS-CH help to monitor the utilization of GR?

## Constituting an internationally recognized certificate of compliance (IRCC)



- To take measures to provide that GR utilized have been accessed with PIC and MAT
- To take measures to address situations of non-compliance
- To cooperate in cases of alleged violation

# How to ensure that the ABS CH is fully functional?

## Further improvements in the ABS-CH functionalities

### New features:

- ABS measures country matrix for displaying information on national legal frameworks
- Enhanced visibility for information on Article 19 and 20 tools and community protocols and customary laws of ILCs

### Working on:

- Interim national report for the Nagoya Protocol
- Optimize the role of the ABS-CH for coordinating capacity-building for the NP
- Improvements in design, search functions, country profile and integration within the CHM

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### **First meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House**

**28 - 30 October 2015 Montreal,  
Canada**

- Translation,
- API and Interoperability,
- Collaboration,
- Capacity Building,
- Integration with the CHM,
- and Priorities and more...



# How to ensure that the ABS CH is fully functional?

## Efforts to build capacity about the ABS-CH and increase participation

- **Outreach and engagement campaign with a focus on submission of CNA and ABS measures.**
  - Actively contacting Parties and others
  - Help desk and personalized technical support and follow-up
  - Webinars in different languages
- **Developing capacity-building materials:**
  - E-learning module, step-by-step guides, factsheets
  - Improvements of the online help

# PARTICIPATE!

The ABS-CH will not work without the active participation of Parties and others

**First steps to Register information:**

Country: nominate a publishing authority

Other: register for a CBD account ([accounts.cbd.int](https://accounts.cbd.int))

No need of an account for searching information in the ABS-CH

**Need more information?**  
email us at [absch@cbd.int](mailto:absch@cbd.int)