

Vilm ABS Dialogue 2017 – Informing about Domestic Measures for Access to Genetic Resources

After entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and the corresponding Regulation (EU) No. 511/2014, European users of genetic resources are required to “exercise due diligence” to ensure that they have acquired genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge in accordance with the national access procedures of the respective provider country. In Germany, as in other EU member states, “competent national authorities” (CNAs) for ABS are in the course of formation and first meetings of European CNAs already took place.

One of the discussed implementation challenges was the availability of transparent and reliable national access regulations in provider countries. CNAs, as the German Nagoya CNA-Unit of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN), are repeatedly being asked for information and advice in this regard. But the international ABS-Clearing-House (ABS-CH), designed as the key tool for information exchange aiming at enhancing legal certainty, clarity, and transparency on procedures for access to genetic resources, is not yet sufficiently populated and thus does not allow users to gather the relevant information for the vast majority of countries.

To counter such legal uncertainties, the Nagoya CNA-Unit of the BfN organized an international exchange of information and experience, the “Vilm ABS Dialogue – Informing about Domestic Measures for Access to Genetic Resources” in August 2017 at the BfN-branch office on Vilm Island in Germany. The conference gave an opportunity to identify and present best-practices on available, clear and transparent access measures in place.

The results of the meeting were recorded in a conference report; it provides concrete access profiles and presentations on current access processes for access / use of genetic resources from the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa and Viet Nam.

The report will soon be available on the international ABS-CH and is already available on the German BfN-Website under

<https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/BfN/service/Dokumente/skripten/Skript485.pdf>