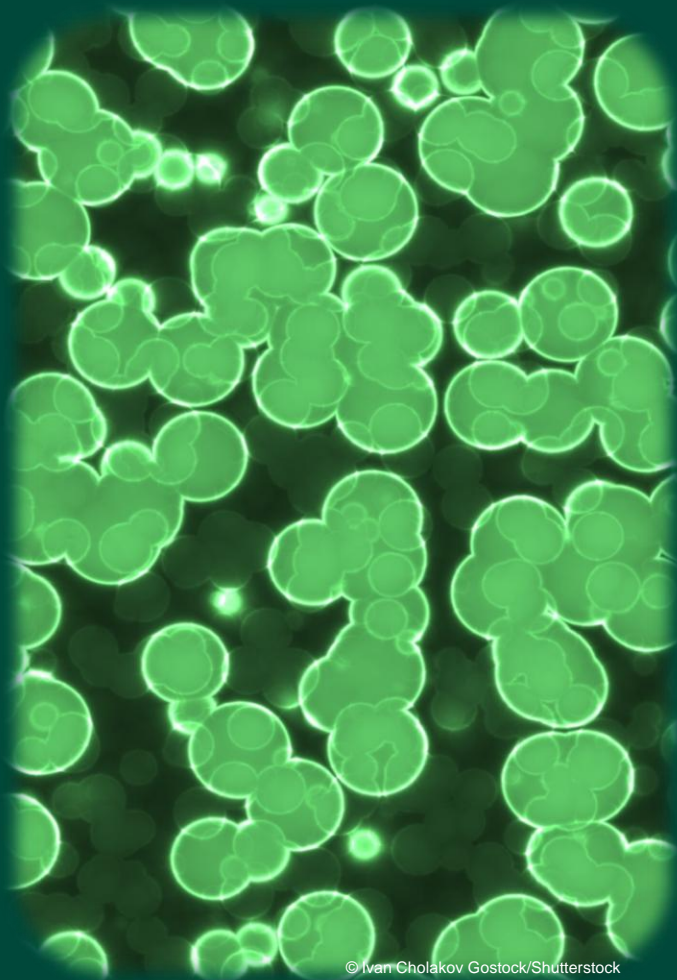
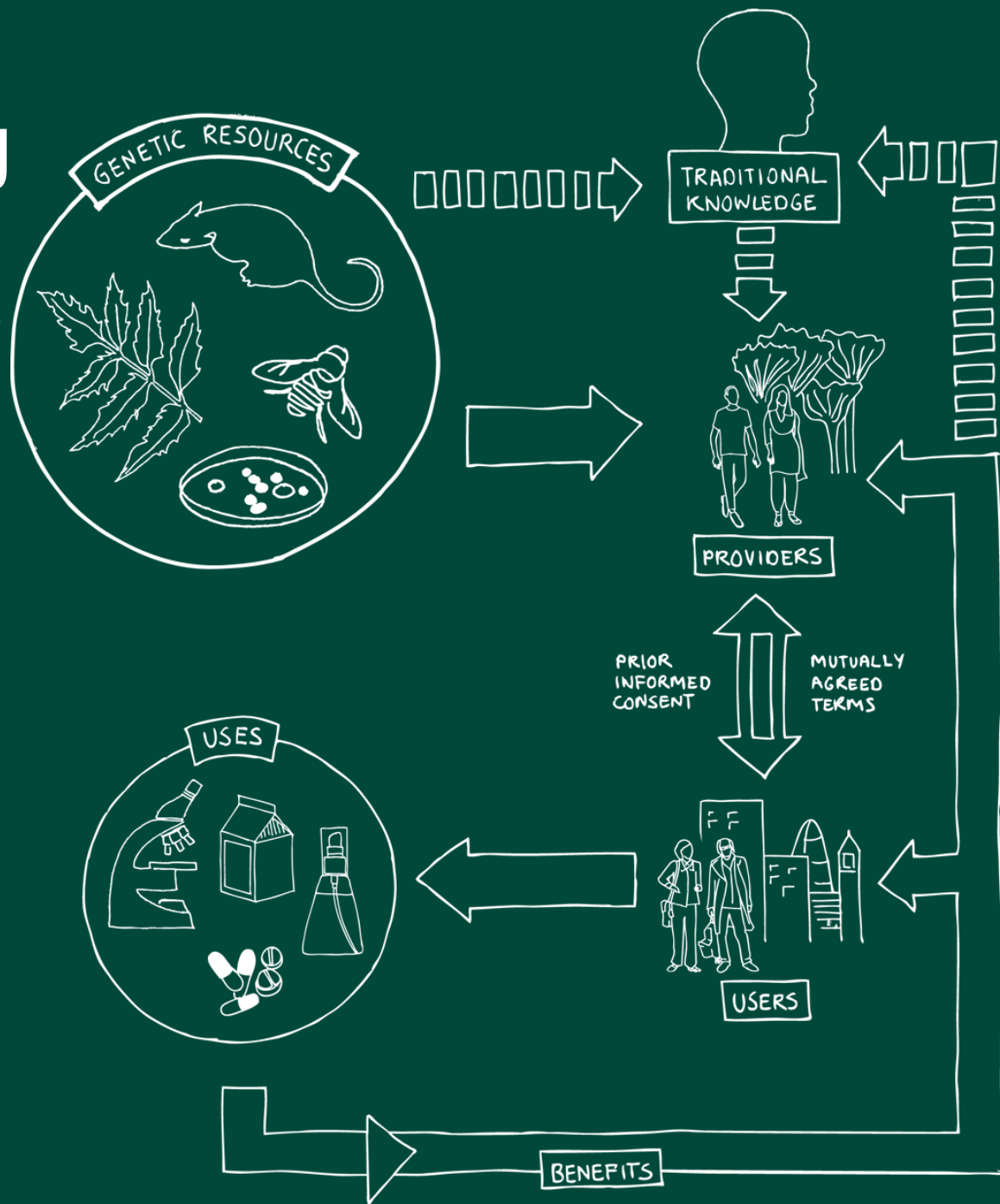


Access and benefit-sharing information kit



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Introduction on access and benefit-sharing



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An information kit was developed to build awareness on ABS. The key themes addressed in the information kit are:

- Access and benefit-sharing
- Uses of genetic resources
- Traditional knowledge
- The Bonn Guidelines
- National Implementation

A brochure, factsheets and PowerPoint slides can be downloaded at:

www.cbd.int/abs



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

What are genetic resources?

- All living organisms (plants, animals and microbes) carry genetic material potentially useful to humans
- These resources can be taken from the wild, domesticated or cultivated
- They are sourced from:
 - Natural environments (in situ)
 - Human-made collections (ex situ) (e.g. botanical gardens, genebanks, seed banks and microbial culture collections)



Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

Why are genetic resources important?

- They provide crucial information to better understand nature
- They can be used to develop a wide range of products and services for human benefit
- The way in which genetic resources are accessed and how the benefits arising from their use is shared can create incentives for:
 - The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
 - The creation of a fairer and more equitable economy to support sustainable development



Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

The link to traditional knowledge:

- Our understanding of genetic resources often comes from traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities which has been handed down over generations
- The value of this knowledge must be understood and recognised by those who use it
- Essential that the rights of indigenous and local communities are considered during access and benefit-sharing (ABS) negotiations



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Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

What is ABS?

It refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how the benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers)



Introduction on access and benefit-sharing



How does ABS work?

It is based on:

- Prior informed consent (PIC) being granted by a provider to a user
- Negotiations between the provider and the user to develop mutually agreed terms (MAT) that ensure that the benefits from the use of genetic resources are shared equitably



Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

What is prior informed consent?

The permission given by the competent national authority of a provider country to a user prior to accessing genetic resources, in line with an appropriate national legal and institutional framework

What are mutually agreed terms?

An agreement reached between the providers of genetic resources and users on the conditions of access and use and the benefits to be shared between both parties



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Who is involved in ABS?

Providers of genetic resources:

- States have sovereign rights over their natural resources
- Laws within the provider country determine rights over genetic resources at the national level, who has the authority to grant access to genetic resources and who should be involved in the negotiation of mutually agreed terms with potential users (e.g. private land owners, indigenous and local communities)



Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

Who is involved in ABS?

Users of genetic resources:

- A diverse group, including botanical gardens, industry researchers such as pharmaceutical, agriculture and cosmetic industries, collectors and research institutes
- They seek access for a wide range of purposes, from basic research to the development of new products



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Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

Who is involved in ABS?

National Focal Points (NFPs):

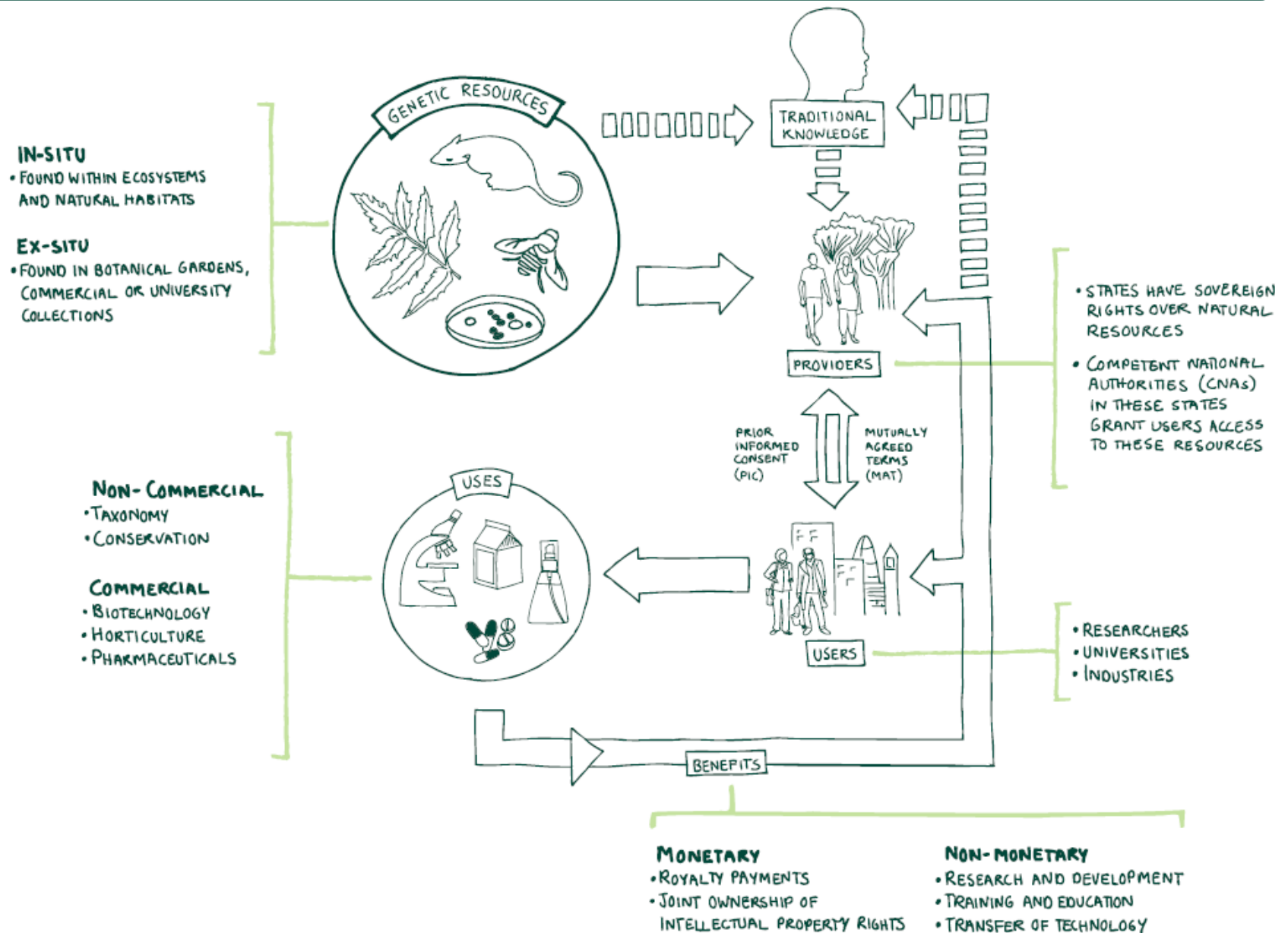
- Responsible for providing information on ABS, such as the requirements for gaining access to genetic resources

Competent National Authorities (CNAs):

- Established by governments and responsible for granting access to their genetic resources
- Represent providers on a local or national level



Key themes on access and benefit-sharing



Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

ABS Timeline

- 1992 The text of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD) is opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit
- 1993 The CBD is ratified and comes into force
- 1998 A panel of experts is established to clarify principles and concepts related to ABS
- 2000 The Conference of the Parties establishes the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing

Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

ABS Timeline

2002 The Conference of the Parties adopts the Bonn Guidelines on ABS

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, States called for action to negotiate an international regime to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources

2004 The Working Group on ABS is given the mandate to negotiate an International Regime on ABS

2008 The Conference of the Parties establishes a clear process for the finalization of the international regime on ABS and its adoption at its tenth meeting in October 2010

Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

An International Regime on ABS is being negotiated to further implement the ABS provisions of the CBD,

Why is it important to have an International Regime?

- It will ensure that biodiversity-rich countries obtain a fair share of benefits arising out of the use of their genetic resources by setting out a clear and transparent framework for ABS
- Benefit-sharing, through technology transfer, research results, training and profits, can contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development



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Why is it important to have an international regime on ABS?

- ABS can contribute to further research and development contributing to human well-being through the use of genetic resources in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture and many other sectors
- ABS is essential to better understand nature through taxonomic research



Introduction on access and benefit-sharing

- The International Regime is to be adopted at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan
- Further information on the International Regime can be found at: www.cbd.int/abs/ir

